

NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION

NORDEFCO Annual Report 2015



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of Defence

“By 2020 we envision an enhanced political and military dialogue on security and defence issues and where we actively seek for possibilities for cooperation. We create efficient and cost-effective solutions based on shared understanding of our mutual potential and challenges. We are committed to enhanced cooperation and coordination in capability development and armaments cooperation. We coordinate activities in international operations and capacity building, human resources, education, training and exercises. We seek to increase the pooling of capabilities and to deepen cooperation in the area of life-cycle support of our defence inventories.”

From the Nordic Defence Cooperation Vision 2020, December 2013



NORDEFECO ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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Production: Ministry of Defence Sweden • January 2016

Photo: Swedish Armed Forces • Ministry of Defence Sweden • Norwegian Armed Forces

Print: Elanders Sverige AB

FOREWORD

The Nordic countries meet the challenging security situation in our region through solidarity and enhanced cooperation. Our cooperation is built on shared values and we address challenges together. With differing organizational affiliations we cooperate closely within the framework of the EU and NATO. Closer cooperation among the Nordic countries and our solidarity with the Baltic States contribute to enhanced security in our region, as well as raising the threshold for military incidents to take place. By acting together in a predictable and consistent way, we contribute to peace and security in our part of the world.

This year has been eventful and productive for the Nordic Defence Cooperation, NORDEFECO. We would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of the many activities that are taking place within the NORDEFECO framework – areas of cooperation that will be further elaborated upon in the following pages.

In light of the current security situation, close political dialogue between the Nordic countries has become even more important. NORDEFECO provides an important platform for security policy dialogue. This was highlighted in the joint article that was published this year, in which we laid out our common view of the situation and how we address these new challenges. At the beginning of this year the Swedish Chairmanship launched the concept of NORDEFECO Action Plans (NAP)

at Policy Steering Committee (PSC) level. The purpose was to emphasise certain areas of cooperation as laid out in the Vision 2020 from december 2013. A number of action plans were developed within the areas policy, capabilities, international operations, armaments and training and exercises. To highlight a few focus areas this year, the Nordic Military Coordination Committee (MCC) looked into possibilities of closer cooperation within air surveillance, which will proceed next year. Within the concept on alternate landing bases, a technical agreement has been drafted that, once signed by all participating nations, will enable our air forces to increase the effect of their exercises. The next step is to examine whether the concept can be extended to also include armed aircraft. The MCC has conducted an initial report on what would be required to establish a high intensity Air Combat Flag Exercise (Northern Flag).



Peter Hultqvist
Minister for Defence
Chairman NORDEFECO 2015
Sweden



Peter Christensen
Minister for Defence
Denmark

“In light of the current security situation, close political dialogue between the Nordic countries has become even more important. NORDEFECO provides an important platform for security policy dialogue.”

Significant progress has been made on the topic of secure communication. We have taken a decision to implement secure communication during 2016 between our capitals at military and political level. A secure communication system will be a prerequisite, as well as a catalyst, for enhanced cooperation within the NORDEFECO framework.

A new project concerning information-sharing has been initiated at political level. By mapping incidents and propaganda activities, we intend to create a better picture of the security situation in the region. Cooperation between the Nordic and Baltic countries has evolved during the year and at the Nordic-Baltic Policy Directors meeting at Berga Naval Base in September, the Baltic countries presented a joint view of cooperation with the Nordic countries. Sweden and Lithuania have

produced a non-paper with areas of possible enhanced cooperation, which will serve as a base primarily for further work at military level next year.

In 2016, the Danish NORDEFECO chairmanship will continue the ongoing NORDEFECO action plans and other tasks, and work to further enhance Nordic defence cooperation.

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of the Nordic Defence Cooperation during the productive and rewarding year of 2015.



Jussi Niinistö

Jussi Niinistö
Minister for Defence
Finland



Ine Eriksen Søreide

Ine Eriksen Søreide
Minister for Defence
Norway



Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson

Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Iceland

NORDEFECO MEETINGS 2015



SWEDISH CHAIRMANSHIP 2015

A SUMMARY

The priorities for the Swedish Chairmanship of NORDEFECO 2015 took as their starting point the goals set out in the vision for 2020, as well as the changing security situation in our region.

At the outset as Chair, with the ambition of strengthening political guidance, we proposed action plans for some areas. The ambition was to provide the military level with clear taskings, goals and timelines. This means a new working method has been introduced in the NORDEFECO framework. The issues highlighted this year through NORDEFECO Action Plans (NAPs) were secure communication, contingency and readiness planning, international operations, alternate landing bases, air surveillance and a high intensity Air Combat Flag Exercise (Northern Flag).

Throughout the year, various meetings have been held at both political and military level. At ministerial level the Nordic Defence Ministers met in Arvidsjaur and Luleå on 10–11 March and in Stockholm on 10–11 November. At the meeting in Stockholm, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg also participated. At this meeting, a Nordic-Baltic as well as a Northern Group ministerial was held.

At Political Steering Committee (PSC) level the first meeting took place at the Command and Control Regiment in Enköping on 3–4 February. The second meeting was held on 15–16 September at Berga Naval Base, and included a Nordic as well as a Nordic-Baltic session. The meeting had also a session with the Nordic capability directors. A visit to Muskö Base was also part of the meeting. Due to scheduling issues, the PSC Armaments met out of cycle during the autumn, and its meeting took place in Brussels on 29 October. The Nordic State/Permanent Secretaries met in Stockholm on 9–10 June.

At military level the Armed Forces Chiefs of Defence have this year gathered in both Luleå and Oslo, and the NORDEFECO Military Coordination

Committee (MCC) representatives have also met in the course of the year. The Nordic Chiefs of Defence had a meeting with Nordic National Armaments Directors in September.

Progress made within the Nordic Defence Cooperation in 2015

One important step was the joint article signed by all ministers on the challenges in our region and the value of Nordic cooperation. The article received a lot of attention and affirmed Nordic unity. Russia's increased military presence and activities, especially in the Baltic Sea region fosters the need for exchange of information. To facilitate exchange of information on emergency planning and preparedness, the Swedish Chairmanship organised a seminar in September at which representatives from the ministries participated in discussions on national contingency planning. The developments in the Nordic region also underline the importance of developing the Nordic-Baltic defence cooperation and security policy dialogue. The Nordic countries have also assembled examples of incidents and propaganda activities aimed at our respective countries. This constitutes a first step in improved transparency and increased understanding.

In their capacities as respective chairs of Nordic and Baltic cooperation, Sweden and Lithuania presented a non-paper on ways to enhance Nordic-Baltic defence cooperation.

In 2015, coordinating meetings have taken place within the three identified focus areas (anti-corruption; cyber defence; and operations, training and exercises) in the Nordic-Baltic Assistance Programme (NBAP). Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway deployed a Nordic-Baltic team to Georgia, developing a joint training and evaluation



In March 2015, the Nordic Defence Ministers conducted a Ministerial meeting in the North of Sweden and visited the Army Ranger Battalion I19. From the left: Policy Director Arnór Sigurjónsson (Iceland), Defence Minister Carl Haglund (Finland), Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist (Sweden), Defence Minister Nicolai Wammen (Denmark) and State Secretary Øystein Bø (Norway). • Photo: Jimmy Croona/Swedish Armed Forces

centre. The centre was opened by NATO’s Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in August, and is at the core of the substantial NATO-Georgia package agreed on at the NATO Wales summit in 2014. A declaration of intent was signed by the Nordic and Baltic Policy Directors in September 2015.

Meetings have been held in Stockholm with the aim of increasing coordination on international operations. The meetings have been conducted with participants from the armed forces as well as from the ministries, to discuss possible cooperation and information-sharing.

A seminar has taken place, fall of 2015, to share experiences of how the Nordic countries work with lessons learned from international operations. ISAF was used as a case-study for this seminar. Representatives from the ministries and experts from armed forces and research agencies participated.

A top priority for 2015 was the establishment of secure lines of communication between the nations. The military level was tasked with finding a

suitable solution and their findings were presented prior to the second PSC meeting. A status report and implementation plan from MCC is to be presented to PSC at its meeting on 3–4 March 2016.

The Nordic Ministers and Chiefs of Defence have for several years worked to strengthen and develop Nordic cooperation on air surveillance. Exchange of data on air surveillance will facilitate for improved situational awareness in the



During the Defence Ministerial in March 2015, the Ministers signed the Agreement concerning support for industry cooperation in the defence material area. • Photo: Jimmy Croona/Swedish Armed Forces



NATO's Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, participated in parts of the Defence Ministerial in Stockholm in November 2015. From the left: Policy Director Arnór Sigurjónsson (Iceland), Defence Minister Jussi Niinistö (Finland), Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (NATO), Defence Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide (Norway), Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist (Sweden) and Policy Director Kristian Fischer (Denmark).
 • Photo: Dennis Abrahamsson/Ministry of Defence Sweden

Nordic region. The working group NORECAS has continued its efforts in 2015. The aim is to have a MoU in place during 2016. A Technical Agreement is being negotiated for the Nordic Cooperation on Tactical Air Transport (NORTAT), further outlining the content.

The work on cyber defence has continued at MCC-level and will continue during 2016. The development of Nordic cooperation within the framework of Open Skies was initiated and progress has been made at military level. The PSC endorses continued work within the MCC.

Cross-border training (CBT), where the Nordic air forces train together on a weekly basis, has been further developed: This year Iceland signed the Technical Arrangement, which thereby encompasses all Nordic countries. The concept is also open for the participation of non-Nordic countries in training activities. In 2015, the United States participated in CBT on several occasions. After decision on political level the MCC has invited Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States to participate in 2016.

At the beginning of 2015 it was agreed that establishing a high intensity air combat flag exercise would be considered. The military level has presented an initial report on the costs and resources required to establish such an exercise. The next step will be to continue the work and develop a concept for a possible Northern Flag.

The MCC has approved a technical agreement for the Alternate Landing Base (ALB) concept. The technical agreement will be signed at armed forces level. Iceland is invited to be included in the alternate landing bases concept.

In order to facilitate cooperation as well as identifying challenges and obstacles, the PSC agreed to activate a third annex on the topic of export control, under the overall defence industry cooperation agreement signed by the ministers in March 2015. The PSC has also adopted a Nordic Consultation Group (NCG) that will monitor future developments.

Swedish soldiers participating in the annual NATO exercise BALTOPS.
• Photo: Jimmy Croona/ Swedish Armed Forces



NORDEFECO COOPERATION AREAS

MILITARY LEVEL

The cooperation areas (COPAs) are the cornerstones of the Nordic Defence Cooperation military framework. The joint COPAs are responsible for implementing the decisions made by the Military Coordination Committee (MCC), thus providing a bridge between multinational and national organisations. The COPAs cover five main areas of cooperation: capabilities, armaments, human resources and education, training and exercises, and operations.

The Coordination Staff (CS)

CS is an executive body of the MCC and handles the day-to-day coordination and facilitation of the cooperation on behalf of the MCC. Its main responsibility is to provide staff support to the MCC. During 2015, CS has also coordinated two major projects – Alternate Landing Base (ALB) and the establishment of a potential Northern Flag exercise. The ALB concept is aimed to mutually offer participating nations' state or military aircraft access to each other's air space and alternate landing bases in situations when weather conditions or other aspects of flight safety requires it, based on standing and preapproved diplomatic clearances. The establishment of a Northern Flag will offer participating Air Forces the benefits of a large training area, minimal commercial air traffic, and a live firing area thus providing outstanding training opportunities, cost effectiveness and increased operational effect in a Nordic environment.

Cooperation Area – Armaments (COPA ARMA)

COPA ARMA aims to achieve increased operational effect through cooperation in the armaments and acquisition areas. This is achieved by identifying cooperation items from national development and procurement plans and through any ad hoc initiatives presented by the participating nations. COPA ARMA also seeks added value from harmonisation of requirements, business procedures and national processes. Dialogue with the defence industry as well as the Joint Nordic Defence Industry Cooperation Group is also a responsibility of the COPA ARMA.

Cooperation Area – Capabilities (COPA CAPA)

COPA CAPA aims to address the Nordic nations' capability development plans and processes, with a view to identifying areas for capability cooperation. Based on common needs, CAPA identifies areas of mutual benefit, with the intent of exploring the possibilities of reducing total costs and promoting operational effectiveness.

Cooperation Area – Human Resources and Education (COPA HRE)

COPA HRE aims to achieve enhanced cooperation on military education within the Nordic countries, and facilitating the exchange of experiences on policies and procedures in regards to topics related to human resources and education.

Cooperation Area – Operations (COPA OPS)

COPA OPS will, based on common Nordic political decisions, be prepared to plan, coordinate, and prepare force contributions, deployment/redeployment, and logistics support to operations. COPA OPS is an event-driven cooperation area that maintains the Nordic network, sustains close dialogue, and monitors the global situation in order to achieve its tasks.

Cooperation Area – Training and Exercises (COPA TEX)

COPA TEX aims to continuously identify possibilities to coordinate, harmonise military training activities among the Nordic nations and facilitate a combined and joint exercise programme for a period of five years.

COOPERATION AREA ARMAMENTS (COPA ARMA)

COPA ARMA aims to achieve financial, technical and/or industrial benefits for all the member countries of NORDEFECO within the field of acquisition and life cycle support.

This aim is primarily achieved through the 'screening process' in which nations identify and exploit possibilities for common development programmes, procurement, and maintenance of existing and emerging capabilities through a transparent and mutual exchange of information on planned national procurement.

The 2015 COPA ARMA screening process

This year, the nations offered a total of 317 inputs/projects to the COPA ARMA screening process. After initial screening, the inputs could be grouped into 123 subject areas. The compilation of these subject areas resulted in 85 possible cooperation areas that, in the second phase of the screening process, were sent to the national line organisations (capability managers) for further national staffing. So far, the screening process has identified the following present and future possibilities for bilateral or multinational cooperation areas:

- Nordic combat uniform
- Long-range Air Surveillance Systems (LRASS)
- SAITS (Small Arms Indoor Training System)
- Tactical data link
- CBRN protective masks
- Unitised group rations

In addition, 15 possible cooperation areas are expected to be handled in already existing working groups within COPA ARMA.

COPA ARMA Working Groups

COPA ARMA is mandated to initiate working groups in any area that is deemed beneficial for Nordic armaments cooperation. Currently, 15 working groups are operating with experts from all Nordic countries' line organisations. The working groups include:

Base Camp Nordic Pool (BCM)

The Working Group on Base Camp Material facilitated the drafting of a technical agreement for a common Nordic pool of base camp material during 2015 for international operations. Under the agreement, Norway will provide 12 complete base camp material sets that can be drawn upon by the participating Nordic nations. The agreement provides substantial cost savings for the participating nations compared to the alternative of procuring the camp sets nationally. Presently, all nations are on course to sign the technical agreement by end of the first quarter of 2016.

Long-range Air Surveillance Sensors (LRASS)

Based on Norwegian and Swedish conceptual studies on the renewal of air surveillance sensors, the LRASS is focusing on examining the possibilities for common procurement of long-range air surveillance sensors. During 2015, the group's work has focused on comparing national sensor studies, capability build-up strategies, threat scenarios and commercial/legal issues.

Soldier Protection, Equipment and Clothing (SPEC)

The activities of the Soldier Protection, Equipment and Clothing working group is focusing on harmonisation of requirements and acquisition timelines as well as opportunities for common procurement. One practical approach for this is a common Nordic combat uniform. Although adjustments regarding national user requirements are pending, a suitable technical solution has been identified, and a roadmap for common project management, quality assurance, technical management and commercial management is expected to be ready by the end of January 2016.



Bomb disposal during the exercise SWENEX. • Photo: Jimmy Croona/ Swedish Armed Forces

What does the COPA ARMA foundation represent?

Brigadier P.K. Pedersen (DEN), COPA ARMA Chair

– In the Nordic Defence Ministers' Vision 2020 of December 2013, the Ministers emphasised their willingness to support Nordic armaments cooperation. With the Nordic defence ministers' vision setting the political stage for Nordic armaments cooperation, COPA ARMA aims in more practical terms to achieve financial, technical and/or industrial benefits for all the member countries within the field of acquisition and life cycle support.

How is this aim to be achieved within the COPA?

– This aim is primarily achieved through the screening process in which nations identify and exploit possibilities for common development programmes, procurement and maintenance of existing and emerging capabilities through transparent and mutual exchange of information on planned national procurement. Based on this aim, the overall objective is to improve the results of armaments cooperation in NORDEFECO by producing more tangible results. This is achieved by focusing on a step-by-step approach involving more input, tighter coordination between the different levels in NORDEFECO, and greater involvement and clarification of the roles of the respective national line organisations.

Other working groups in COPA ARMA include:

- Dismounted Arms and Ammunition (DAA)
- Diving Systems (DS)
- Geospatial Systems (GEO)
- Hazardous and Environmental Materials (HAZMAT)
- NATO Codification (NATO CODE)
- Pharmaceuticals (PHARMA)
- Small Arms Indoor Training Simulators (SAITS)
- SAP (SAP)
- Systematic Sitaware (SITWARE)
- Snow Mobiles (SM)
- Tactical Data Link (TDL)
- United Group Rations (UGR)

COOPERATION AREA CAPABILITIES (COPA CAPA)

COPA CAPA addresses the Nordic countries' capability development plans and processes with the aim of identifying areas for cooperation. Based on common needs, COPA CAPA identifies areas of mutual benefit with the intent of exploring the possibilities of reducing total costs and promoting operational effectiveness.

The main task is to identify possible areas for capability cooperation. Activities within COPA CAPA normally stem from comparisons of study or capability development plans between the countries. Research and Technology (R&T) is an integral part of the capability development process in COPA CAPA, adding to the strategic dimension to the work. Some of the ongoing studies and projects are described below.

Nordic Enhanced Cooperation on Air Surveillance (NORECAS)

The potential for enhanced cooperation regarding exchange of radar data and a more integrated solution concerning air command and control systems was outlined in two studies conducted in 2013. NORECAS was established in 2012 as a result of a NORDEFECO initiative to consider closer cooperation within the field of air surveillance. A study report was delivered in December 2013. In 2014, the MCC agreed to form a Project Owner Group with the task of transforming the NORECAS study recommendations into solid plans and actions. NORECAS was subsequently tasked with developing a road map for step-by-step implementation of radar data exchange, along with an implementation plan for a common Nordic command and control (C2) structure. The work has continued during 2015.

Nordic Cooperation on Tactical Air Transport (NORTAT)

NORTAT was initiated with the aim of enhancing Nordic cooperation for better utilisation of the countries' air transport assets, by exploring opportunities for collaboration within the areas

of operational use, maintenance, training and exercises of air transport capabilities. During 2015, efforts have resulted in concrete savings related to the maintenance of the Danish and Norwegian C-130 aircraft. In 2016 a common booking system for planning of air operations will be implemented.

Cyber defence

Established in 2012, the working group conducted a joint cyber experiment in 2014. The aim of the forthcoming work is to develop forms to enable information-sharing between the military Computer Emergency Response Team (MILCERT) units and to coordinate common efforts in exercises and educational activities.

COPA CAPA during 2015

- The European Defence Agency project agreement Joint Deployable Exploitation and Analysis Laboratory (JDEAL) signed by Norway and Sweden, giving access to deployable laboratories for C-IED training and operations.
- Norway and Sweden jointly leased base camp material sets supporting the mission in Mali, providing substantial savings and joint education associated with the use of the material.
- An implementation plan for a C2 structure is worked upon within NORECAS.
- In NORTAT a technical agreement for utilisation of air transport assets is to be signed in 2016.
- In Small Arms Indoor Training Simulators (SAITS), common requirements were defined accompanied by overall acquisition timeline and estimated numbers of units to be procured. The project was transferred to COPA ARMA for acquisition.



In September 2015, two F-18 Hornet from the Finnish Air Force and two JAS 29 Gripen from Norrbotten Air Force Wing landed on a Finnish highway strip and then conducted a joint training mission within the framework of Cross Border Training. • Photo: Louise Levin/Swedish Armed Forces

Other current COPA CAPA projects include:

- **Open Skies**, enhancing cooperation within the framework of the Open Skies Treaty, enabling reconnaissance flights over the territories of other countries party to the treaty.
- **Computer Training Network (CTN)**, aiming to link simulators and trainers into a computer training network.
- **Small Arms Indoor Training Simulators (SAITS)**, intended to provide a training system that replicates 'live firing' in an indoor, safe environment.
- **Virtual Battle Space (VBSX)**, seeking to increase knowledge and operational effect and save costs through joint use or acquisition of battle space simulators.
- **Ground-Based Air Defence (GBAD)**, aiming to define future needs for surface-based air defence systems. Currently, cooperation is ongoing in Norway, Sweden and Finland to execute and develop cooperation in the field of GBAD. The main annual GBAD cooperation activities are the Nordic GBAD Cooperation Initiative (NoGCI) meeting and Nordic Helmet CPX (Command Post Exercise). This year the NoGCI meeting was held at Orland Air Base, Norway.
- For future capability development, COPA CAPA conducts an annual screening of national study and development plans. The 2015 screening brought about six new study areas; long-range precision guided engagement, access to radio spectrum, satellite-based surveillance, future naval fighting and flow security in the Baltic Sea, autonomous force components and joint operational naval capabilities.

Which projects could be pursued in this COPA area?

Col. Oscar Hull (SWE), COPA CAPA Chair:

– The scope covers everything related to capability development, which is essential to any military organisation as it aims to define the challenges expected in a longer-term perspective and what capabilities are needed to face them. COPA CAPA is thus the engine of NORDEFECO as it works towards turning these national ideas into common activities and projects.

Could you describe your experience of the cooperation within the COPA?

– The structure of NORDEFECO, i.e. different levels of national line organisations interacting directly with each other, provides great opportunities to address common issues and build trust between countries. It also enables a regional perspective on the opportunities and challenges at hand.

Could you name a few examples of positive cooperation and/or concrete results within the cooperation area?

– I consider the air transport and air surveillance exciting ventures, both confidence-boosting activities with great potential to impact day-to-day business at air wing and regiment level. Capability development is not only about developing new capabilities but also doing better with what we already have, of which joint training and exercises is one example.

COOPERATION AREA HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION (COPA HRE)

The aim of the COPA HRE is to find common interests around the HRE field and from them form an idea into an implemented activity – a common course, seminar or a platform for experts to share information and experiences.

The HRE field has a variety of common activities ranging from a Nordic Officer Student Exchange Programme at Master's degree level to hands-on issues in practical medical training courses. A lot of activities fit in between these two on the continuum between theoretical and practical, all sharing the common interest of each participating nation. During 2015 COPA HRE worked on several different activities.

Activities during 2015

Common interests were found in the centres of competence. The centres will act as hubs for Nordic cooperation around the chosen fields of expertise

as well as arrange courses of common interests at an advanced level.

Another promising activity that saw progress during the year is the Professional Military Education, which took steps towards a Nordic Officer Exchange Programme at Master's degree level. The aim is to have the first courses opened for Nordic students in the Nordic countries' defence universities in 2016 and 2017.

As an outcome of the work on the safety officer course, an Operational Planning Guide was produced. The aim is to train each nation's safety



officers to increase the common Nordic understanding in the field of military in-service and occupational safety (MIOS) regarding exercises and operations.

New ideas include possibilities concerning the concepts of total fitness and a pool of instructors/experts. Total fitness activity could lead to a platform for experts to exchange information, undertake common research projects or facilitate conferences. A pool of instructors could be formed around specified areas of expertise and used as mobile education teams across the participant nations.

Achievements during 2015

Two of the most important achievements of COPA HRE in 2015 were the safety officer course and the medical education course. This year these two courses were included in the NORDEFECO Course Catalogue.

Other examples of achievements in the HRE field are the annual conferences and meetings held on the following topics: foreign language, veterans issues and advanced distributed learning and diversity. All topics have already established a firm position in the line organisation as working platforms for experts to meet regularly and exchange information and best practices.

COPA HRE during 2015

- Safety officer course was implemented in the line organisation as the first Nordic course was arranged in February 2015.
- SOF medical education was implemented in the line organisation as the first Nordic course was concluded in March 2015.
- ADL, veterans and diversity conferences have been arranged regularly during the past years with future conferences already planned for the coming years.
- The COPA HRE wants to take part in efforts to enable enhanced capability, interoperability and responsiveness of Nordic troops. HRE must support training, exercises and operations. Without personnel proficiency and readiness there is no force capability and readiness.

Which projects could be pursued in this COPA?

**Capt (N) Pekka Varjonen (FIN),
COPA HRE Chair:**

“All projects that could lead to improved operational effect and enhanced cooperation among the Nordic nations. From this broad selection of possible activities the most suitable are picked for closer scrutiny.”

Could you describe your experience of the cooperation within the COPA?

– The cooperation within COPA HRE could be described as fruitful; progress is made in a constructive and supportive atmosphere. The very basis of effective cooperation comes from functional contacts within the COPA management group as well as in all the working groups. The management group has been honing its working methods throughout the year in several face-to-face meetings which have facilitated enhanced cooperation.

Could you name a few examples of positive cooperation and/or concrete results within the cooperation area?

– The past year's success stories were without a doubt the two projects that were implemented, SOF Medical Education and Personnel Safety, which both resulted in a successful course with multinational participants and concrete results in terms of advanced knowledge in both fields and common procedures in the field of personnel safety.

On the left page: Picture taken during the Nordic Chiefs of Defence's visit at Norrbotten Air Force Wing in 2015. • Photo: Jimmy Croona / Swedish Armed Forces

COOPERATION AREA OPERATIONS (COPA OPS)

COPA OPS is prepared to plan, coordinate and clarify force contribution, deployment/redeployment and logistics support to operations. In contrast to other COPAs, COPA OPS is mostly event-driven.

In order to achieve its tasks, COPA OPS maintains the Nordic network of operational planners, keeps up a close dialogue and monitors the global situation. COPA OPS operates through the respective countries' military line organisations to initiate required activities such as planning, coordination and preparation of force contributions, subsequent deployments and redeployments, and logistic support to operations.

COPA OPS enables Nordic support to international crisis management operations. To be able to fulfil its tasks, COPA OPS has to maintain the close Nordic networking among participating nations.

Activities during 2015

COPA OPS activities during 2015 have mainly been focused in the field of international operations, leading to operational gains and cost-efficient solutions, developing the Nordic network to achieve common situational awareness at both regional and global level, and acting as a think-tank in studying the links between joint training and combined operations.

Achievements during 2015

An important prerequisite for common understanding and planning has been introduced through the decision of September 2015 to develop a common Nordic secure communications system. A status report and implementation plan from MCC is to be presented March 2016. COPA OPS is monitoring the completion of the task and is to report on developments to the MCC. Operational

and tactical level cooperation in crisis management operations in Africa and Middle East have been developed. Information-sharing in long-term exercise planning has been conducted in order to support planning at national level.

Secure communication

- The upcoming secure line of communication is a key enabler for deeper operational cooperation.
- Significant progress was made during 2015 and a solution was proposed by the Norwegian-led working group and COPA OPS. The solution has been approved by the Nordic CHODs.
- Implementation of the secure communications system is planned to take place during 2016.

The Nordic countries are in need of systems for secure distribution of classified information. During 2015 NORDEFECO has taken remarkable steps forward in implementing a secure line of communication. At military level, COPA OPS and the Norwegian-led working group presented a practical technical solution together with cost estimates for the implementation of such a system. This solution meets the requirements set by the military and political levels and has been approved by the Nordic CHODs. The system is to handle information classified up to the level secret and will be implemented during 2016. This capability is a key enabler for deeper operational coordination and cooperation between the Nordic countries.



Which projects could be pursued in this COPA area?

Colonel Kari-Pekka Rannikko (FIN), COPA OPS Chair:

– Our key task is to coordinate and prepare force contributions, deployment/redeployment and logistics support to operations. We also maintain the Nordic network and keep up a close dialogue, and monitor the global situation in order to create the basis for common contributions leading to operational gains and/or cost-efficient solutions.

“COPA OPS is a Nordic think-tank for operational cooperation. Without this kind of a structure it would be much more complicated to share experiences and exchange best practices related to operations between Nordic countries.”

Could you name a few examples of positive cooperation and/or concrete results within the cooperation area?

– I think that constant dialogue and coordination within COPA OPS has become a natural part of the everyday work in the Nordic armed forces. Progress made in the field of secure communications during 2015 is, in my opinion, one of the highlights of the year. The system will surely be actively used.

The Norwegian Police Advisory Team (PAT) within the Nordic-Baltic Transitional Support Unit during a MEDEVAC exercise in Afghanistan. Swedish Forces Helicopter 16 (UH-60M Blackhawk) helps evacuate the patient. • Photo: Stephen Olsen/Norwegian Armed Forces

COOPERATION AREA TRAINING AND EXERCISES (COPA TEX)

The overall aim is to achieve better training for the same resources or to achieve the same level of training for fewer resources. In 2015 we have addressed cooperation areas where NORDEFECO engagement could yield effects.

The line organisation cooperates naturally in the entire range of activities within the training and exercise domain.

A study on the potential development of the Arctic Challenge exercise and discussions on possible collaboration on NATO's Trident Juncture 18 have been main issues. Furthermore, the shift in the strategic environment has put the emphasis on third party participation in Nordic activities – highlighted by invitations and orientations based on the Common Nordic Baltic Exercise Programme (CJNBEP).

High Intensity Air Combat Exercise – Northern Flag

The aim of the NORDEFECO 2015 Action Plan on the possible establishment of a Northern Flag exercise has been to work on the development of the Arctic Challenge air exercise to a higher level and to attract more third party involvement. The Nordic area has a unique airspace and good ranges that offer freedom to exercise large-scale formations and more complex air operations. A study report was delivered in June 2015 to the MCC which focused on practical measures to enhance the exercise building on the existing letter of intent on ACE, signed by the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish air chiefs in January 2014. The findings indicated that the air forces would benefit greatly from a step-by-step approach to develop the exercise. An additional working group was tasked by the PSC with addressing the issue of resources and third party participation in planning and conducting the exercise. An initial report was delivered prior to

the defence ministerial in November 2015.

A mandate was issued at the defence ministerial to continue developing a concept for a possible Northern Flag exercise.

Combined Joint Nordic Baltic Exercise Programme (CJNEP)

The CJNBEP has been running in the line organisation for many years and is a practical example of how Nordic defence cooperation can be pursued and developed in a practical way. Coordination of military training and exercises benefits all countries as resources are better utilised.

Working dog

In recent years a study group has developed a working collaboration and standards for the military working dog community in the Nordic countries. A technical agreement has been developed and is currently undergoing formal processing. The agreement will enhance training and yield effects from standardisation. Furthermore, the nations involved have a limited number of resources; put together, however, they possess solid bases for building competence.

Forward air controller

The NORDEFECO countries have engaged in cooperation on forward air control, also known as joint terminal attack control. A study group was formed under Danish lead, and it established some areas of collaboration. In the last year this collaboration has been established and the study group has been dissolved. Further cooperation will be carried out in the line organisation.

Which projects could be pursued in this COPA area?

LTC Harald Aamoth (NOR), COPA TEX Chair:

– Our key task is to coordinate and prepare force contributions, deployment/redeployment and logistics support to operations. We also maintain the Nordic network and maintain a tight dialogue and monitor the global situation in order to create the basis for common contributions leading to operational gains and/or cost-efficient solutions.

Could you describe your experience of the cooperation within the COPA?

– COPA TEX meets regularly between experts in the area of training and exercises at strategic level. This gives us a solid basis for discussing possibilities and coordinating possible joint actions concerning future training and exercises.

Could you name a few examples of positive cooperation and/or concrete results within the cooperation area?

– Training and exercises is an area offering significant potential for beneficial cooperation. Cross-border training between Finland, Norway and Sweden is a case in point. Our countries' air forces have learned important lessons from these activities.

– Moreover, the ACE exercises conducted in 2015 are another good example of operational beneficial cooperation between Nordic and allied countries. The Nordic region offers unique opportunities for advanced training and exercises in Europe.

COPA TEX work process

The initial purpose of COPA TEX has in many ways been achieved, and cooperation has been transferred to the line organisation. This year more work has been put into addressing Nordic security policy initiatives than producing more effective training and exercise for the involved nations. It seems we have reached a level of maturity whereby further development requires directed added resources. This will – if initiated – represent a new development in NORDEFCO.

Soldiers from Swedish Amphibious battalion debark from a combat boat onto Røvlunda firing range. • Photo: Anton Thorstensson/ Swedish Armed Forces



COOPERATION WITH THIRD PARTIES

During 2015, NORDEFECO has cooperated with third parties at both military and political level.

Within the framework of cross-border training, the MCC has extended invitations to participate to Germany, Netherlands, Poland and the United States. In 2015, the US participated in CBT several times with the aim of training air combat and air-to-air refuelling.

One priority issue for 2015 was deepening cooperation with the Baltic States. In September, Sweden and Lithuania, as respective Chairs of NORDEFECO and the three Baltic States (3B), presented a joint non-paper on enhanced Nordic-Baltic cooperation. The paper was approved at ministerial level in November and resulted in a joint Nordic-Baltic Statement. The joint statement highlighted improved situational awareness, exercises, increased cooperation within the area of cyber defence, international operations and capacity-building, as well as armaments and centres of excellence and other hubs of knowledge. This work will be reviewed annually. In parallel, the military level NORDEFECO MCC and the three Baltic States produced a joint paper regarding military cooperation which suggests a step-by-step approach to find key projects as an important input to Nordic-Baltic cooperation for next year.

One of the priorities for 2015 was to invite representatives from international organisations and other third parties for strategic dialogue. In September, the Permanent and State Secretaries from the Nordic countries met with US Deputy Secretary of Defence Robert Work. The meeting was held in Oslo and focused on the security situation in the Nordic region as well as possibilities

for cooperation. At the PSC meeting in September, NATO DSACEUR General Adrian Bradshaw joined the policy directors for a discussion on the security situation. In October, the PSC Chair together with the Norwegian PSC representative introduced Nordic defence cooperation in the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation.

“International defence and security cooperation, in particular the Nordic and Nordic-Baltic cooperation, strengthens the security situation and raises the threshold for military incidents and conflicts in our region. ”

*Peter Hultqvist
Minister for Defence Sweden*

At the defence ministerial, the meeting conducted sessions in both Nordic-Baltic and Northern Group formats. The meeting was attended by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who participated in several parts of the meeting and discussed NATO partnership cooperation as well as the regional security situation.

In December, Swedish Chairmanship together with Denmark participated in a meeting organised by the Visegrad (V4) cooperation in Prague to discuss possibilities for further inter-regional cooperation between V4 and NORDEFECO.



The Defence Ministerial in Stockholm in November included a Nordic-Baltic session. From the left: Policy Director Arnór Sigurjónsson (Iceland), Defence Minister Hannes Hanso (Estonia), Defence Minister Juozas Olekas (Lithuania), Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist (Sweden), Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (NATO), Defence Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide (Norway), Permanent Secretary Andrejs Pantelējevs (Latvia), Defence Minister Jussi Niinistö (Finland) and Policy Director Kristian Fischer (Denmark). • Photo: Dennis Abrahamsson/Ministry of Defence Sweden

Nordic-Baltic Defence Ministers Statement

Stockholm, 10 November 2015

In view of the strategic environment, the Nordic and Baltic countries continue to expand their security cooperation. The stability in the Nordic and Baltic regions can only be secured in a wider European and trans-Atlantic context, but the countries of the region also play an important role in underpinning and strengthening the overall security architecture.

Today, the NB8 Defence Ministers have conducted discussions on how to enhance our defence cooperation. Our countries will continue working together in the following areas:

- Improve situational awareness for the promotion of stability in our vicinity.
- By exercises provide a catalyst for interoperability and engagement in the region as well as a signal of ability to operate together.
- Cooperate in dealing with dynamic cross-border threats emanating from cyberspace.
- Consider possibilities for cooperation in current and future international operations.
- Contribute to capacity building and security sector reform.
- Enhance the bilateral and multilateral cooperation in areas such as armaments and acquisitions and in support of hubs of knowledge in the region (such as Centres of Excellence or, NATO Department Heads, Defence Colleges and research centres).

We will continue to explore new possibilities for cooperation and through these measures, we take our responsibility to strengthen the security in the Nordic and Baltic region.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION 1952–2014

1952–2008

Nordic cooperation was initiated in 1952, through the creation of the Nordic Council (Finland joined the Nordic Council in 1955). Further, during the 1950s the Nordic countries united in strong support of the United Nations peacekeeping initiative in the Suez region, the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), which was established in 1956. The Nordic countries made a concerted effort through the Nordic Stand-by Forces in United Nations Service (NORDSAMFN).

From the 1960s onwards, these joint contributions to the UN were evidence that far-reaching cooperation at military level between the Nordic countries was possible, regardless of differences in national foreign and security policy. Yet another example of joint Nordic support to the UN was the joint support to the 1992 peacekeeping operation in the Balkans.

Furthermore, NORDSAMFN also coordinated peace support education and training until 1997, when the Nordic Coordinated Arrangement for Military Peace Support (NORDCAPS) was initiated and took on this function. In 2003 Iceland became a member of NORDCAPS.

In the 1990s, Nordic defence cooperation evolved when closer cooperation on acquisition was established through the Nordic Armaments Cooperation (NORDAC). NORDAC provided a framework for the Nordic countries to find opportunities for common development, procurement and maintenance related to defence materiel.

In June 2007, the Swedish and Norwegian Armed Forces published a joint study outlining a partnership intended as a complement to the two countries' cooperation with NATO and the EU. The partnership was aimed at increasing cost-efficiency and enabling the Swedish and Norwegian

military to retain the full range of their military capabilities. As a result of the study, the Nordic Supportive Defence Structures (NORDSUP) was established in November 2008 and included all five Nordic countries.

In 2008, the Finnish and Swedish Air Forces initiated bilateral training within the framework of Cross Border Training North (CBTN).

In July 2008, the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Chiefs of Defence presented a report containing 140 areas of possible future Nordic defence cooperation.

2009

In January 2009, Finland assumed the chairmanship of the NORDSUP Steering Committee. A key goal of the Finnish chairmanship was to create an overarching structure encompassing all aspects of Nordic defence cooperation. In November 2009, this was accomplished when the Nordic Ministers of Defence signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and created the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO). This new organisation brought the previous NORDAC, NORDCAPS and NORDSUP cooperation structures together in one common institutional framework.

In February 2009, the former Norwegian Minister of Defence Thorvald Stoltenberg presented a report on further development of foreign and security cooperation between the Nordic countries. The Stoltenberg report encompassed 13 suggestions of focus areas for Nordic cooperation that later contributed to the revitalisation of Nordic defence cooperation.

2010

In 2010, the Norwegian chairmanship navigated the cooperating parties through the establishment and implementation of the new NORDEFECO

structures. The countries discussed the development of NORDEFECO towards 2020, and a Nordic General Security Agreement was signed. The cooperation area training and exercises was established. Further, a joint weekly training programme for the air wings in Bodø, Kallax and Rovaniemi was introduced. NORDEFECO initiated cooperation activities with the three Baltic States.

Other activities during 2010 included Finland's procurement of the Norwegian Air Defence System (NASAMS), Swedish technical support to the Norwegian Aero-medical Detachment (NAD) in Afghanistan, the initiation of informal discussions with the Baltic States on Nordic-Baltic cooperation, and the establishment of a five-year plan for the common Nordic efforts to support East Africa (EASBRICOM).

2011

In 2011, the Swedish chairmanship furthered the implementation of the NORDEFECO military structure and developed frameworks to drive the process forward. A five-year Combined Joint Nordic Exercise Plan for 2012–2016 was developed during the year and the Nordic countries agreed to establish the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations. In total, 33 joint NORDEFECO training for Peace Support Operations (PSO) courses were held during the year. Amongst other things, the PSO centres supported the Nordic initiative for capacity building of the Eastern Africa Standby Forces (EASF).

During 2011, Nordic cooperation on veteran issues was established and the planning of a veteran conference in 2012 was initiated. Furthermore, Sweden and Norway exchanged officers working with concept development, experimentation, acquisition and life cycle support and initiated new armaments cooperation items between the countries. Sweden and Norway also participated in the exercise Cold Response 11 and Finland and Norway

cooperated on ground-based air defence, which included staff exercises and live firing. Additionally, cooperation with the Baltic States was established and they were invited to participate in selected activities at military level and included in activities according to their own preferences.

The established Nordic cooperation in Afghanistan continued with Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish weekly-operated common logistical flights to Afghanistan, for example.

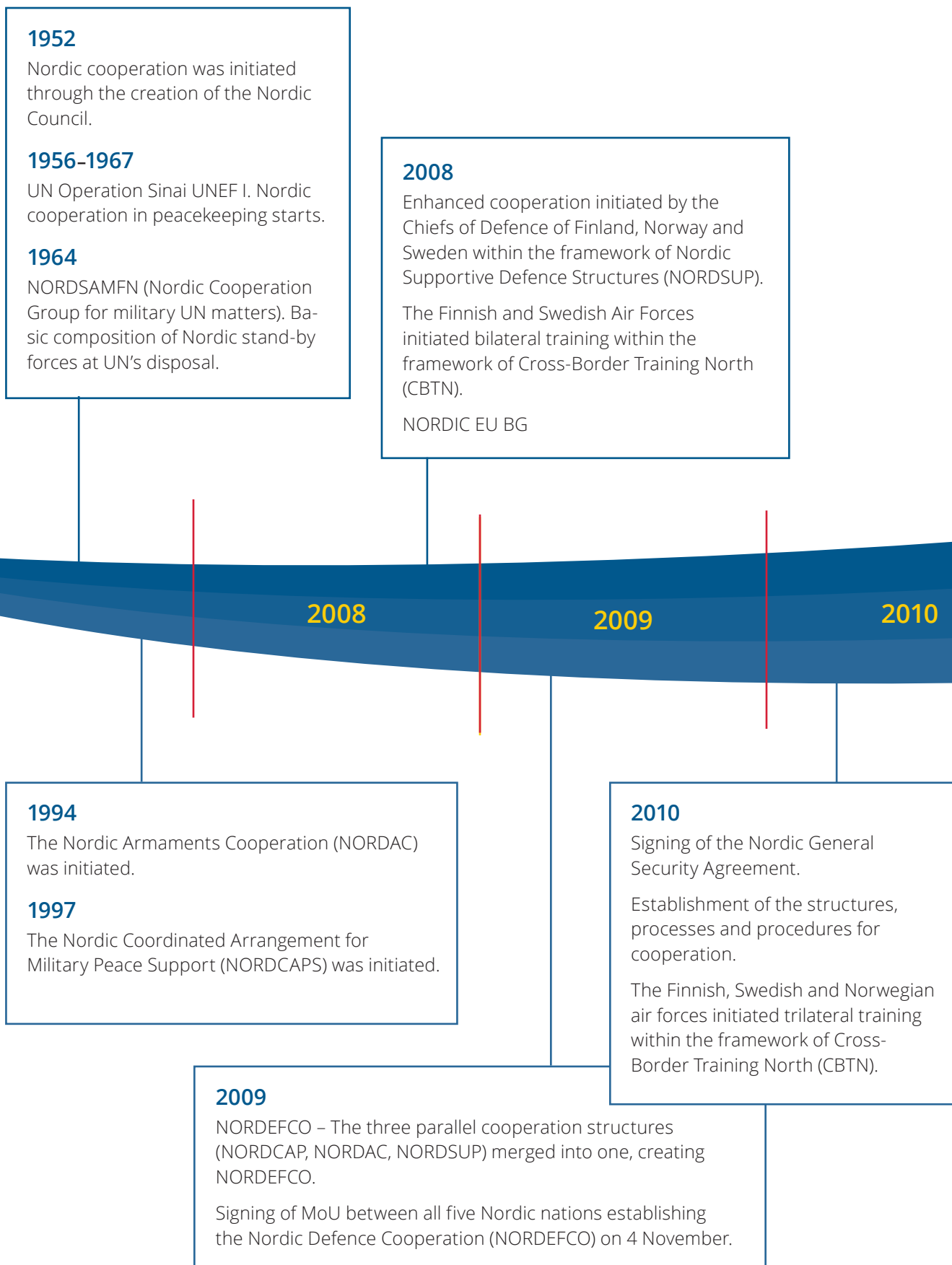
2012

The Danish chairmanship dedicated the year to developing NORDEFECO along the lines of smart defence and pooling and sharing. In November, Nordic cooperation was further enhanced through the signing of the letter of intent on Nordic tactical air transport at the meeting in Skagen, Denmark. Further, the African capacity-building initiated in 2010 continued as a part of the support to East Africa and the fourth Nordic defence industry seminar was held in Copenhagen.

Other achievements during the year were the introduction of a top-down screening process by the Military Coordination Committee, the establishment of annual NORDEFECO-Baltic meetings at Military Coordination Committee level, and Cross-Border Training South. In addition, the first Nordic-Baltic Veterans Conference was hosted by Norway and provided an arena for discussing initiatives for recognising and safeguarding veterans.

Nordic cooperation in Afghanistan continued with enhanced planning for coordination of redeployments from Afghanistan. Further, a mechanism for making Nordic cooperation a more natural option when the Nordic countries are planning future operations was established.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION 1952–2014



2011

Developed a five-year Combined Joint Nordic Exercise Plan.

Establishment of the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (inaugurated on 24 January 2012).

The Baltic States participated in NORDEFECO activities – as a part of the developing Nordic-Baltic cooperation.

Enhanced cooperation in cross-border training and exercises.

Joint training for peace support operations.

NORDIC EU BG

2013

Development of a five-year action plan for 2014–2017, to enable more effective national resource planning and to further enhance the quality of the cooperation output.

Established cooperation on armaments – airspace surveillance, sensor procurement (LRASS).

The Combined Joint Nordic Exercise Plan was extended to include the three Baltic States.

MoU on the establishment of a pool concerning NORTAT was signed by the Nordic Defence Ministers.

The NOREFCO Vision for 2020 was developed further.

Decision on new structure including Nordic CHOD, State Secretary/Permanent Secretary and NAD. Establishment of the new cooperation area, armaments.

2011

2012

2013

2014

2012

The Nordic Ministers of Defence signed the letter of intent on Nordic Tactical Air Transport (NORTAT).

Establishment of annual Nordic-Baltic meetings of the Military Coordination Committee (MCC).

Establishment of Cross-Border Training South.

The first Nordic Veteran Conference was held.

Nordic participation under Exercise Cold Response 12.

2014

Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland participated in the Iceland Air Meet exercise.

Cross-Border Training South and North merged into Cross-Border Training.

Establishment of a new structure for NORDEFECO following the decision taken in 2013.

Decision to establish a joint capability to conduct defence sector capability-building.

Swedish participation in the Norwegian exercise Cold Response 2014, the Chiefs of Defence of Finland, Norway and Sweden agreed to participate in Cold Response 2016.

All activities under the military cooperation areas (COPAs) were in essence opened up for participation by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

NORDIC DEFENCE COOPERATION 1952–2014

2013

In 2013, during the Finnish chairmanship, the NORDEFECO structure was evaluated and representatives decided to change the structure, process and working methods. This new structure was to be implemented the following year and fully operational in 2015. In addition, a four-year action plan was developed for 2014–2017 with the aim of enabling more effective national resource planning and further enhancing the quality of the cooperation output. The Nordic Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) were also more formally incorporated into the existing structure at MCC level. Changes to the cooperation areas included the merging of the strategic development cooperation area with the capabilities cooperation area and the introduction of an additional cooperation area, armaments.

Moreover, the previous NORDEFECO Vision for 2020 was developed further and adopted at the Nordic defence ministerial in Helsinki in 2013. This development renewed the political commitment of Nordic defence cooperation and also provided political guidelines for the armed forces in areas such as maritime and air surveillance, exercise cooperation and rapid deployment in the framework of the EU and NATO.

Further, the cooperation with the three Baltic States continued with a NORDEFECO-Baltic meeting at MCC level. The Combined Joint Exercise Plan for the Nordic countries was expanded to also include the Baltic States. Additionally, Finland, Norway and Sweden made a joint contribution together with the Baltic States to the EU training mission in Mali.

Other achievements during 2013: the Nordic Defence Ministers Signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a pool for the Nordic Tactical Air Transport (NORTAT). Further, information-sharing and coordination between the Nordic capitals was enhanced, cooperation on special operation forces medical education was established and the first courses were held in October 2013.

2014

In 2014, the scope and intensity of the dialogue between the Nordic countries increased due to the changing security situation in Europe. During the Norwegian chairmanship, the need to exchange information regarding emergency planning and readiness and to develop Nordic-Baltic defence cooperation and security dialogue grew with the Nordic region's increased importance. With regard to air surveillance, Finland, Norway and Sweden, together with NATO, implemented an agreement on air situational data exchange (ASDE). Cooperation on air surveillance was intensified by addressing the potential for more integrated, cost efficient and operational beneficial cooperation within air command and control and increased situational awareness. Furthermore, Nordic-Baltic cooperation developed to include all activities under the military cooperation areas (COPAs) and all COPAs were thus in essence open for participation by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2014.

Other activities during 2014: the Nordic Defence Ministers decided to establish a joint capability to conduct defence sector capacity-building, and the Nordic countries continued to support the East African Standby Forces. During Norway's rotation to undertake NATO's Air Policing Mission on Iceland in spring 2014, Finland, and Sweden participated in training and exercise activities. An Iceland Air Meet was organised, with the participation of Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. Moreover, Sweden participated in the Norwegian-led exercise Cold Response 2014 and the Chiefs of Defence from Finland, Norway and Sweden signed an agreement in August stating their intention to jointly prepare their battalions for the next Cold Response exercise in 2016.

The Nordic-Baltic Assistance Programme capacity-building initiative was initiated in 2014. Denmark and Norway provided a maritime task group to the Mediterranean in December 2013 to support the UN and the OPCW in the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons. The task force consisted of two frigates and two merchant shipping vessels, and also included CBRN experts from Finland and a staff officer from Sweden. The operation was successfully ended in July 2014.

In March 2015, the Nordic Defence Ministers conducted a Ministerial meeting in the North of Sweden and visited the Army Ranger Battalion I19. • Photo: Jimmy Croona/ Swedish Armed Forces



THE NORDEFECO STRUCTURE

The purpose of the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO) is to strengthen participating countries' national defence, to explore synergies within the cooperation and facilitate efficient solutions to common problems.

The chairmanship of NORDEFECO rotates annually between Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Cooperation within the NORDEFECO structure is divided along the lines of military and political subject matters. Iceland participates at political level whilst the remaining Nordic countries take part at both political and military level. While the Nordic Ministers of Defence and the Policy Steering Committee are in charge of the cooperation at political level, the Nordic Military Coordination Committee (MCC) is responsible for cooperation at military level. The Chief of Defence of each country appoints generals or flag officers to participate in the MCC.

Five cooperation areas (COPAs) come under the MCC. The COPAs facilitate cooperation within the comprehensive areas of capabilities, armaments, human resources and education, training and exercises, and operations. The COPAs are responsible for the implementation of the decisions taken by the MCC.

Decision-making within the Nordic Defence Cooperation is consensus-based; however, a country can choose not to participate in an activity or a project. In that case the other participants can proceed with that activity or project and commit themselves freely to the process.

All activities within the framework of NORDEFECO aim to identify or perform activities that lead to increased quality, enhanced operational effect and/or cost savings. To prevent duplication of work, NORDEFECO activities are, as far as possible, managed within the regular national chain of command. This system also contributes to making the Nordic Defence Cooperation an integrated part of the daily work in participating countries.

The structure of NORDEFECO was revised through a stocktaking-process during 2013. The NORDEFECO structure now includes also the Permanent/State Secretary's, Chief of Defence (CHODs) and National Armament Directors (NADs) from respective Nordic country.

THE NORDEFECO STRUCTURE 2015

Ministers of Defence

Policy Steering Committee

Policy • Operations • Capabilities • Armaments

Policy Steering Committee Secretariat

Military Coordination Committee

Operations • Capabilities • Armaments

Coordination Staff

Cooperation Areas

COPA ARMA • COPA CAPA • COPA HRE • COPA OPS • COPA TEX

“Taking steps towards enhancing the cooperation on defence”

In April 2015, the Nordic Defence Ministers published a joint article on Nordic cooperation and the changing security environment in our neighbourhood. The article was published in national newspapers in each Nordic country. *

The Russian aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea are violations of international law and other international agreements. These actions represent the greatest challenge to the European security architecture. These developments have led to deterioration in the security situation in Northern Europe over the past year. The region is still considered to be stable, however, we must be prepared for the likelihood of crises and incidents. In the current security situation in Europe, our assessment is that there can be no ‘business as usual’ and that we are faced with a new normal.

We have to take account of the actions taken by Russia and not Kremlin’s rhetoric. Russia is making substantial investments in her Armed forces, with the aim of enhancing its military capabilities, and has demonstrated a will to apply military means to achieve political goals, even when it violates principles of international law. Russia has increased her military exercises and intelligence operations in the Baltic Sea region and the High North. Russian military activities are occurring close to our national borders (and several violations of the territorial integrity of states around the Baltic Sea have taken place). Of particular concern are those activities, by Russian military aircraft, reducing the safety of civilian air traffic.

Russian military exercises and intelligence operations in our region have increased, particularly in the Baltic Sea region. The Russian propaganda and political manoeuvring is aiming to create a rift between states and within organisations such as EU and NATO. A great responsibility lies on Russia to reverse this negative development.

The Nordic countries meet the present situation through solidarity and enhanced cooperation. Our cooperation is built on shared values and a determination to address our challenges together. With differing organizational affiliations we cooperate closely within the framework of the EU and NATO. Our approach is defensive. We want to strengthen the stability in Northern Europe and distance ourselves from threats and the use of military force. Closer cooperation among the Nordic countries and our solidarity with the Baltic States contribute to enhanced security in our region, as well as raising the threshold for military incidents to take place. By acting together in a predictable and consistent way, we contribute to peace and security in our part of the world. At the same time we strengthen cohesion within the EU and NATO while also maintaining the transatlantic link.

The security situation in the Nordic region is also affected by several other issues, including our dependence on international trade, the threat of cyber-attacks and terrorism, as well as the effects of climate change. In Europe’s southern and southeastern neighborhood states and institutions are pulled into a spiral of violence marked by civil war, which risks leading to interstate confrontations. Non-state actors, such as ISIL, challenge established states, borders and institutions and continue also to attract citizens from the Nordic countries.

At the Nordic Defence Ministerial meeting in Arvidsjaur on March 10th, we decided to enhance the possibilities to monitor the development in our region. This includes both air- and sea- surveillance. The aim is to share information on activities in our air space, improve pre-warning communication and

* Among others Dagens Nyheter (Sweden), Hufvudstadsbladet (Finland), Aftenposten (Norway) and Jyllands-Posten (Denmark).

“The Nordic countries meet the present situation through solidarity and enhanced cooperation. Our cooperation is built on shared values and a determination to address our challenges together.”

reduce the risk of unexpected events and possible misunderstandings. Moreover, we decided to continue exchanging information and experiences on how to counter cyber-attacks.

In order to effectively act together in a possible future crisis, it is essential to be prepared through training, education and exercises. We have great opportunities utilizing a unique exercise and training environment in order to strengthen our military capabilities on land, in the air and at sea. Within the field of air training the already established Cross Border Training is a model to build on. The possibilities to organize a more complex air exercise, a Northern Flag, will also be explored. We are taking steps towards establishing possible alternative landing bases in case of difficult weather conditions.

Qualified exercises will ensure that other countries and organisations are offered opportunities to become familiar with our region and its specific conditions. In particular, this will be demonstrated through the NATO High Visibility Exercise in Norway 2018.

Through international operations, in Afghanistan, Mali and Iraq, we continue to develop our collaboration, ensuring cohesion and coordination, in an effort to improve the coordination of our civilian and military contributions. Nordic countries are actively involved in the discussions on how to further improve UN peacekeeping operations.

We have established a programme for defence capacity building, where we, together with the Baltic States, can offer contributions to the reform of the

defence sector in participating countries. The Nordic Defence Industry Agreement has undergone a process of revision and modernisation. The Agreement has now been signed, which constitutes an important milestone. It provides the framework for provisions on Security of Supply and specific measures that are important in case of a crisis or conflict, for provisions on certain simplifications concerning the application of defence industrial cooperation, and provisions aiming on facilitate trade in defence equipment between the Nordic countries.

In addition to Nordic defence cooperation, respective national defence capabilities are strengthened through bilateral cooperation, which enhances the overall capacity to handle incidents and threats. Bilateral cooperation complements and strengthens Nordic cooperation as a whole, as well as security in our part of the world.

We assume our part of the responsibility for our region during unpredictable times. The Nordic cooperation complements already existing cooperation within the EU and NATO aimed at increased security in our region. Our shared ambition is to increase predictability, contribute to a peaceful development and avoid military incidents and conflicts.

Defence Minister of Sweden, Peter Hultqvist

Defence Minister of Denmark, Nicolai Wammen

Defence Minister of Finland, Carl Haglund

Defence Minister of Norway, Ine Eriksen Søreide

Foreign Minister of Iceland, Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson

DANISH CHAIRMANSHIP 2016

“Promoting security through cooperation”

NORDEFECO is progressing, and important steps have been taken in the past year. The Danish NORDEFECO Chairmanship 2016 will continue the important work of the previous chairmanships, including the ongoing NORDEFECO Action Plans (NAP).

During the Danish Chairmanship we will continue to strengthen our Nordic cooperation and adaptability in order to promote security and face security challenges in our region and internationally, including the Arctic.

We will work to foster a close political dialogue on security matters, especially at the ministerial meetings, including the security challenges in our region. We will maintain a focus on the developments in the Baltic Sea area, and work to further develop cooperation with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

We plan to develop Nordic cooperation through bilateral agreements and present a new concept of Nordic cooperation, ‘easy access declarations’. The aim is to enhance and deepen Nordic defence cooperation through non-bureaucratic avenues, by allowing all Nordic countries easier access to territory with military aircraft, warships and/or military vehicles through specific new procedures.

We will stress the Nordic countries’ willingness to support peace and stability through international engagement and work to further develop the

NORDEFECO profile in the international arena. We will exchange views on our respective national contributions in international operations in Afghanistan, UN missions, and our common fight against ISIL. We will explore possibilities for establishing and deploying joint Nordic contributions e.g. in support of the UN, as well as further development of our cooperation and support to the East African Stand-by Force.

The Danish Chairmanship will maintain the focus on the important work in relation to the capacity-building projects in Ukraine and Georgia, considering possible new areas of cooperation.

Two ministerial meetings will take place in March and November 2016 in Denmark, including the autumn Nordic-Baltic and Northern Group ministerial meetings. Further activities during 2016 are currently being considered, e.g. arranging a conference on promoting security and facing security challenges in the Nordic region in close cooperation with the Nordic Council.

“We plan to develop Nordic cooperation through bilateral agreements and present a new concept of Nordic cooperation, through easy access declarations.”



100 Danish soldiers from the Jutland Dragoon Regiment acted as the enemy in the exercise Vintersol. • Photo: Jimmy Croona/ Swedish Armed Forces

www.regeringen.se
www.government.se
www.nordefco.org