



COOPERATION AREA ARMAMENTS (COPA ARMA)

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

COPA ARMA foundation.

The Nordic defence ministers' vision paper - NORDEFCO Vision 2020, from December 2013, envisages increased political and military dialogue on security and defence policy issues, increased cooperation and the provision of more effective and economic solutions based on common understanding of opportunities and challenges.

In the vision, the defence ministers specifically emphasize their willingness to support Nordic armaments cooperation:

- *"We are committed to enhanced cooperation and coordination in capability development and armaments cooperation.*
- *We seek to increase pooling of capabilities and to deepen cooperation in the area of life-cycle support of our defence inventories."*

With the Nordic defence ministers' vision setting the political stage for Nordic armaments cooperation, Cooperation Area Armaments (COPA ARMA) in more practical terms aims to achieve financial, technical and/or industrial benefits for all the member countries within the field of acquisition and life cycle support. This aim is primarily achieved through the so-called Screening Process in which nations by transparent and mutual exchange of information on planned national procurement identify and exploit possibilities for common development programs, procurement and maintenance of existing and emerging capabilities. Based on this aim, the overall objective is to improve the results of armaments

cooperation in NORDEFCO by producing more tangible results within the framework of COPA ARMA. This is achieved by focusing on a stepwise approach involving more input, tighter coordination between the different levels in NORDEFCO, and larger involvement and clarification of the roles of the respective national line organizations.

Status COPA ARMA 2015 Screening Process.

At the beginning of this year's cycle, the nations offered a total of 317 inputs/projects to COPA ARMA screening process. After COPA ARMA initial screening, the inputs could be grouped into 123 subject areas. The following 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 organizations (capability managers) for further national staffing.

ARMA Screening 2015 - Early Status	
Initial inputs	317
1. screening	
Completed usable entries	123
2. screening (still on-going)	
Possible cooperation areas	85
NO-GOs	13
FIN-SWE BILAT	7
To be handled in existing WG	15
Info exchange still to be initiated/ongoing	43
Possible new BILAT or MULTILAT WGs (cooperation areas, so far):	7
- 120 mm mortars	
- GBAD (Ground Based Air Defence)	
- RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat)	
- SATCOM (Satellite Communications)	
- Nordic Combat Uniform	
- SAITS (Small Arms Indoor Training System)	
- Tactical Data Link	

Possible HATS ?



With a number of possible cooperation areas still to be staffed/settled by the national line organizations and where the information exchange are still to be initiated or is on-



going, the final result of this phase of this year's screening process is still pending. However, so far the process has identified the following 7 possible bilateral or multinational cooperation areas:

- 120 mm mortars
- Ground Based Air Defence
- Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat - RHIB
- Satellite Communications
- Nordic Combat Uniform
- Small Arms Indoor Training Simulator -
- Tactical Data Links

In addition, 15 possible cooperation areas are expected to be handled in existing COPA ARMA working groups, whereas 7 possible cooperation areas are transferred to the FIN-SWE bilateral cooperation – FI-SE. Furthermore, a number of possible cooperation areas might not be mature enough for Nordic cooperation at this stage and will be moved to next year's screening process. Finally, 13 areas have turned out to be not suitable for cooperation.

COPA ARMA Working Groups 2015.

COPA ARMA is mandated to initiate, administrate and close 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 organizations, such as Defence Headquarters, Logistics Organizations, Defence Ministries, Services, etc.:

- Base Camp Management (BCM)
- Dismounted Arms and Ammunition (DAA)
- Diving Systems (DS)
- Geospatial Systems (GEO)
- Hazardous and Environmental Materials (HAZMAT)
- Long Range Air Surveillance (LRASS)
- NATO Codification (NATO CODE)
- Pharmaceuticals (PHARMA)
- Small Arms Indoor Training Simulators (SAITS)
- SAP (SAP)
- Systematic Sitaware (SITAWARE)
- Snow Mobiles (SM)
- Soldier Protection, Equipment and Clothing (SPEC)
- Tactical Data Link (TDL)
- Unitized Group Rations (UGR)

The working groups' activities all produced added value to the participating countries:

Base Camp Nordic Pool (BCM).

COPA ARMA has through its Working Group on Base Camp Material facilitated the drafting of a Technical Agreement (TA) for a common Nordic Pool of Base Camp Material for international operations.



Under the agreement, Norway will stand up 12 complete base camp material sets that can be drawn upon by the

participating 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 for signing the TA by end Q1 2016.

Dismounted Arms and Ammunition (DAA).

The scope of the Dismounted Arms Ammunition program is to investigate the possibilities for common procurement of a variety of hand-held small arms in addition to different types of relevant ammunition and accessories. The WG has e.g. identified common interests regarding the technical problems associated with 0.50 and 7.62 systems. The WG will through national technical experts' meetings discuss these issues. In addition, the WG has started compiling a Nordic inventory on common national weapons.

Diving Systems (DS).

DS is harmonizing requirements on diving systems, exchanging technical experiences on diving and harmonizing requirements. In addition, the working group shares experiences on diving equipment in current service and keeps an updated list of diving equipment up for replacement. All of the above with the aim of better quality in future joint procurement and maintenance.

Geospatial Activities (GEO).

The aim of this program is to coordinate Nordic Geospatial Activities, identify common training and acquisition opportunities and to search for possibilities of common production of topographic data through Multinational



Geospatial Coproduction Program (MGCP). The goal is to ensure that production and sharing of data are coordinated and managed in the best way possible.

Hazardous and Environmental Materials (HAZMAT).

The working group investigates the possibilities for co-operation regarding environmental and hazardous materials, including finding suitable substitutions for undesirable chemical products and materials, improving common utilization of the nations' resources, improving the acquisition procedures with regards to environmental (green) considerations, and expanding environmental cautiousness.

Green public procurement is an important tool for reducing the environmental impact of public activities by influencing the market towards the delivery of greener products and services. In this spirit, HAZMAT has drafted a Green Acquisition Guide that earlier this year by COPA ARMA was distributed to nations for inspiration and consideration.



Long Range Air Surveillance Sensors (LRASS).

Based on NOR and SWE conceptual studies on renewal of air surveillance sensors, LRASS is focusing on examining the possibilities for common procurement of long range air surveillance sensors. There have



been frequent bilateral meetings on all levels during 2015. The group's work has focused on comparing national sensor studies, capability build-up strategies, threat scenarios and commercial/legal issues. Iceland has shown interest in the activities

performed by LRASS and has been invited to join the WG.

NATO Codification (NATO CODE).

Based on an identified need for continuing joint codification cooperation in an armaments life cycle perspective, the working group will for example harmonize

requirements, exchange valuable information and/or aim for common projects or activities.

Pharmaceuticals (PHARMA).

Using the specific task of common acquisition and stocking of nerve gas antidote as a test case, the working group investigates possibilities for further cooperation between the participating countries within the pharmaceutical field by facilitating communication and exchange of information and further investigating the possibilities for common procurement, use of NSPA and common framework agreements, as well as requirements for security of supply etc.



Small Arms Indoor Training Simulators (SAITS).

SAITS is a program which aims at defining common requirements for shooting simulators. Areas of interests are the replacement of outdated fire arms simulators, and how to purchase simulators for repetitive training up to patrol level (3 soldiers simultaneously) in order to develop the concept of individual training and save costs. After Cooperation Area Capabilities finishes its study phase, COPA ARMA stands ready to take over the project and establish a working group aiming to look into possibilities for common procurement of SAITS.

SAP (SAP).

SAP aims to achieve a more efficient and functional use of SAP solutions via e.g. the exchange of lessons learned in each country as well as a more efficient business development when implementing new SAP functionality by exchange of knowledge and lessons learned. SAP also aims to optimize solutions to common challenging SAP issues according to the participating countries requirements.



Snowmobiles (SM).

The working group is investigating possibilities for cooperation in the snow mobile area in a life cycle perspective, e.g. common procurement, re-acquisition, maintenance, updates, lessons learned etc. However, FIN is tied to an agreement with



BRP that no other countries are currently allowed to take advantage of. Hence NOR and SWE will continue their efforts to establish cooperation regarding maintenance for snowmobiles and sledges using an NLSE agreement.

Soldier Protection, Equipment and Clothing (SPEC).

The activity on Soldier Protection, Equipment and Clothing is focusing on harmonization of requirements and acquisition time lines as well as opportunities for common procurement. A promising and practical area of cooperation is the common approach for acquiring a 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 end January 2016, at which time it will be executed by the nations' respective line organizations.

In addition, substantial coordination has been done in identifying and facilitating common procurement of "Items off the Shelf", such as hand and footwear, protective eye- and headwear and undergarments.

Systematic Sitaware (SITAWARE).

The aim of this working group is to facilitate communication and exchange of information on products, services and technical issues related to the Sitaware suite of products as well as to provide an active voice and consolidated channel of communication of the users of the Sitaware products in expressing needs, requirements, concerns, suggestions and feedback to Systematic. In addition, the working group facilitates communication from Systematic to the users of the company's products in order to disseminate information, plans, and intentions on the Sitaware products.



Tactical Data Link (TDL).

The purpose of this just stood up working group is exchange of lessons learned and development of a common Nordic acquisition strategy in the tactical data link arena.

Unitized Group Rations (UGR).

UGR has successfully completed common procurement of bottled water, while also investigating on-the-go and emergency rations. The working group is now focusing on unitized group rations where the participating countries will look into possibilities for procurement through NSPA to fulfill their common needs.

Other Tasks, Studies and Projects.

To demonstrate the variety of COPA ARMA work, a number of selected tasks, studies and projects as well as cooperation opportunities are depicted below:

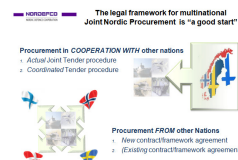
Camouflage (CAMO).

Camouflage is a cooperation area that was identified through COPA ARMA screening process. The use of a Nordic Option Clause was initiated by COPA ARMA when a FIN contract was made available for other Nordic nations to draw upon through a Nordic option clause. Using this option smoothed Denmark's 2015 acquisition of camouflage nets. In addition, Denmark and Norway are working on common requirements for a future common tender in this field.



Nordic Procurement Network (NPN).

NPN is currently operating as an Interest Area Forum that occasionally reports to PSC Armaments. COPA ARMA finds the issues discussed by the NPN very valuable for the Nordic armaments cooperation in general and specifically for the work done in COPA ARMA working groups. COPA ARMA will open an active dialogue with NPN and present current issues and challenges of



procurement legislative and commercial nature to the NPN for further actions. In addition, COPA ARMA welcomes the NPN initiatives to develop procurement models for cooperation, analyses of Industrial Participation (IP), Value Added Tax (VAT) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), exchange of national interpretations of EU directive, and also the initiative to look into the possibility for a Nordic Procurement Course. To take this cooperation further, an additional proposal is to stand up a technical legal Working Group within COPA ARMA with a close connection to NPN. Furthermore, COPA ARMA welcomes the "NAMMO Treaty" procurement annex sub working group's efforts to facilitate Nordic armaments cooperation by drafting templates for e.g. technical and project agreements, common Nordic option clauses and framework agreements etc.

Utilization of standardized procurement procedures has proven to be a key enabler for tangible results. The cooperation between COPA ARMA and the NPN has started off in a very positive and productive atmosphere. This cooperation should be further deepened and concretized.

Industry Cooperation (JNDICG).

Working together with defence industry is of utmost importance in order to ensure a timely and mutual beneficial information updating procedure. The defence industry is



dependent on reaching a sufficient level of situational awareness in order to adjust and deliver the

required systems and units in a timely manner. In order to achieve the right level of understanding, national armaments representatives keep regular contact with national industry associations.

In a Nordic context, COPA ARMA by the MCC NORDEFCO Concept for Industry Dialogue is given the responsibility to coordinate with the Joint Nordic Defence Industry Coordination Group (JNDICG) formed by National defence industry associations.



Nordic-Baltic Armaments Cooperation.

There has been tangible progress in the Nordic-Baltic defence cooperation. All activities under the military cooperation areas (COPA) are now in principal open for participation by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (3B).



There is scope for enhancing armaments cooperation between 3B and NORDEFCO. Hence, COPA ARMA has taken initiative to have annual information exchange and coordination meetings with its peers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Improving Nordic Armaments Cooperation.

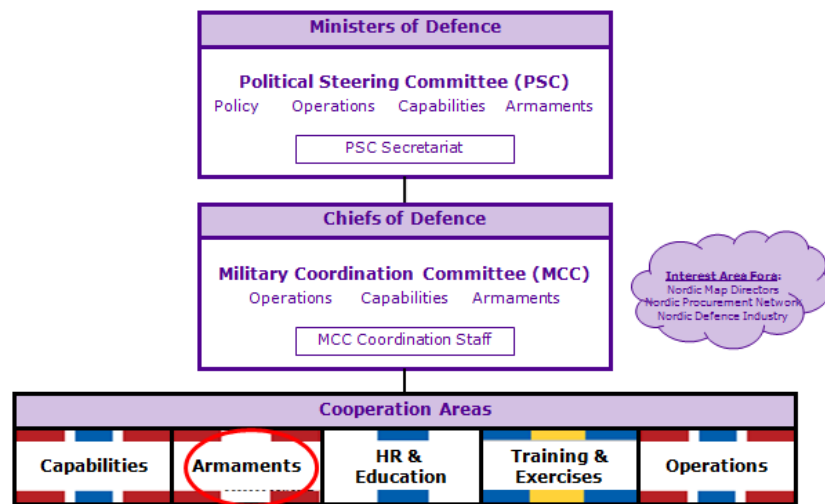
COPA ARMA screening process has proven to be a valuable tool to facilitate armaments cooperation and produce tangible results but the number of inputs (proposed national projects) to COPA ARMA screening process should be increased in order to unleash the latent potential for common armaments projects. The will to seek cooperation is shown in the sheer numbers of national inputs to the screening process – and that number is greatly dependent on the national processes and the national interests steering these processes.

In order to increase the number of inputs, which are crucial for the work and the raison d'être for COPA ARMA, the national line organizations should be encouraged to embrace the inherent possibilities and benefits that lie within Nordic armaments cooperation. In addition, identification of national stakeholders in COPA ARMA working groups is a key factor in attracting relevant attention and management of the groups' work and products. In essence, stronger national intent and involvement by relevant national armaments key players will improve the momentum and increase the efficiency of COPA ARMA. In order to achieve this, COPA ARMA is looking forward to the cooperation with the MCC as well as the Nordic CHOD/NAD forum when nominating promising possible cooperation projects as High level Attention Targets – HATs.



COPA ARMA IN NORDEFCO STRUCTURE

The NORDEFCO Structure



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