

NORDEFSCO

Annual Report 2021



NORDEFSCO



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NORDEFCO Vision 2025

On the 13th of November 2018, the Nordic Ministers of Defence adopted the following vision for enhancing Nordic defence cooperation towards 2025:

“We will improve our defence capability and cooperation in peace, crisis and conflict. We ensure a close Nordic political and military dialogue on security and defence. Acknowledging our different security affiliations, we pursue an agenda based on joint security perspectives, efficient and cost-effective cooperation to strengthen our national defences and the ability to act together.”

Targets for 2025

In order to operationalize the vision, we will strive towards the following targets:

By 2025 we have

- Minimal restrictions on movement and storage of military units and equipment, between and through the nations in support of national and multinational activities, operations and deployments.
- Increased cooperation in total defence, military security of supply and civil-military cooperation.
- Improved regional and common situational awareness in peace, crisis and conflict, in all relevant domains, through real-time information- and data sharing.
- Enhanced NORDEFECO as a platform for crisis consultation and established mechanisms for that purpose.
- Improved our readiness and sustainability in order to improve our ability to act together.
- Coordinated relevant training and exercises between the Nordic countries, and we have improved interoperability.
- Enhanced our transatlantic relations by seeking closer cooperation in areas such as training, exercises and other activities, and improved cooperation with our European partners.
- Continued to strengthen our dialogue and cooperation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Improved our resilience in light of the dangers posed by hybrid threats and growing cyber threats.
- Coordinated our international operations with a focus on national contributions, command and control and joint logistics, when possible.
- Enhanced our engagement in capacity building efforts to promote stability and security in conflict-areas.
- Established logistical cooperation where possible and desirable, with mutual measures to support national needs in crisis and conflict.
- Established a strategic dialogue to enhance capability development in order to meet the requirements needed to address the security environment.
- An active and flexible partner in the Nordic defence industry in developing capabilities and finding new solutions to armaments and total defence requirements, including through utilization of the possibilities inherent in the proposed European Defence Fund as well as other relevant fora and instruments.
- Established options for common education and training to maximize effectiveness and availability in all Nordic development and procurement programs.
- Enhanced our armaments coordination and cooperation.

We will continue to explore and adopt new beneficial possibilities for cooperation, which may emerge.

Contents:

1. Foreword	6
2. Nordic Defence Cooperation at the Policy Level	8
Policy Cooperation.....	8
Capability Cooperation	11
Armament and Defence Industry Cooperation	12
3. Military Coordination Committee (MCC) Activities.....	15
4. Arctic Challenge Exercise 2021.....	19
5. Norwegian NORDEFCO Chairmanship 2022.....	20





1. Foreword

Nordic defence cooperation has intensified during the past few years. We acknowledge that any major security crisis in the region would affect all the Nordic countries. We have developed our crisis preparedness this year and we continue to do so in NORDEFECO, bilaterally and in trilateral cooperation. Cooperation during peacetime is a foundation for our ability to act together during crisis conditions.

We have a long experience of Nordic defence cooperation reaching further back than the establishment of NORDEFECO in 2009. In today's world, the value of close Nordic cooperation and coordination is even more evident. One example in 2021 was the Afghanistan evacuation operation in which the Nordic countries worked closely together. I would, once again, like to thank my Nordic colleagues for the excellent cooperation in the operation. We supported each other successfully in this difficult situation.

During 2021 we developed our Nordic crisis preparedness in multiple ways. Crises do not respect borders nor administrative structures and a total defence approach is a well founded response to that development. Therefore, one of our focus areas was to initiate civil-military cooperation with the Haga working group dealing with public safety, rescue services and preparedness. This new dialogue is off to a good start and concrete areas of cooperation were identified. They will be further examined as Norway continues the Haga-NORDEFECO work during their chairmanship in 2022.

The overall goals of Nordic defence cooperation are outlined in the Vision 2025, but we also have to respond to unforeseen events, such as the COVID-19 crisis. Consequently, we set out to investigate the impacts of the pandemic on military Security of Supply. The short-term effects appear to have been fairly limited, but some worrying signs have been detected by the end of 2021. The long-term impacts are not yet known. To ensure well-functioning supply chains, close cooperation with the Nordic defence industry is required. The industry has the most accurate and timely information concerning

"Cooperation during peacetime is a foundation for our ability to act together during crisis conditions."

the in-company industrial base vulnerabilities and the problems stemming from the global market situation.

The ongoing pandemic has also led to new ways of working together and finding digital solutions in Nordic defence cooperation. To ensure our ability to act together, it is important that we have appropriate tools to keep close contact between the Nordic defence administrations. We have been utilizing NORDEFECO's secure communication system for regular meetings but also for crisis consultations on Ministerial and expert level regarding Afghanistan and the

situation in and around Ukraine. Based on our experience of using NORDEFECO's Crisis Consultation Mechanism since 2019 and to better respond to the needs of possible future crises, we developed the mechanism's practices further during the Finnish chairmanship. In some cases continuous consultations might be needed.

An essential part of preparedness and developing interoperability is training and exercise. During Finland's chairmanship we organized NORDEFECO's second Table Top Discussion and concluded that in a crisis situation Nordic consultations and coordination benefits us all and contributes to better situational awareness. Regarding military exercises, the biennial Nordic air defence exercise, Arctic Challenge Exercise (ACE), was conducted despite the pandemic. ACE was led by Norway with participation by all NORDEFECO countries, the United States and European partners. At the beginning of 2021 we renewed the commitment of US participation in the exercise by signing the ACE Letter of Intent.

Despite the different defence solutions of the Nordic countries, Finland sees great

potential for deepening our relations in defence cooperation, and participates in the cooperation pro-actively. We share this ambition among the Nordic countries and I have no reason to doubt that our Nordic defence cooperation will deepen also in the years to come, as we work towards the overall goal of our Vision 2025 – to improve our defence capability and cooperation in peace, crisis and conflict strengthening our national defences and ability to act together.

Antti Kaikkonen
Minister of Defence
Finland

2. Nordic Defence Cooperation at the policy level

The overarching goal of the Finnish chairmanship was to continue the work to achieve the targets set in the NORDEFECO Vision 2025.

Four priorities guided the work throughout the year:

- Ability to act together in peace, crisis and conflict
- Military security of supply, resilience and total defence
- European instruments, in particular the European Defence Fund, in the Nordic context
- Long Term Project Development (LTPD)

Also earlier ongoing work was continued. The main activities of the year are presented below. It should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had an effect on NORDEFECO's activities at the policy level and some

meetings were held virtually. Fortunately, the two Ministerial meetings and the Policy Steering Committee's (PSC) fall meeting were held face-to-face in Finland. Additionally, cooperation between the Nordic and Baltic states continued with a Defence Policy Directors' meeting in Brussels and a virtual Ministerial meeting.

In addition to the themes presented below, during 2021 the Communication working group started the process of renewing the official NORDEFECO.org website. Several improvements and amendments have been planned and the concrete work on renewing the website begins in early 2022.

Policy Cooperation

Developing the Nordic countries' ability to act together in times of peace, crisis and conflict is the North Star of Vision 2025 and therefore it has also been one of the priorities of the Finnish chairmanship.

Table-top-discussions and exercises (TTDs and TTXs) have been identified as a tool for developing Nordic cooperation for different crisis and conflict scenarios. In order to build continuity, a three-year-plan for annual NORDEFECO TTDs/TTXs was adopted during the Danish chairmanship (2020), and accordingly, a TTD was planned and organised in 2021. This was the second ever NORDEFECO TTD, as the first one was arranged during the previous Finnish chairmanship in 2017. Experts from the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats, located in Helsinki, were involved in the planning of the TTD scenario, which took place in an evolving hybrid environment.

Representatives from the ministries and the military level of each country participated in the TTD. The discussions were fruitful and several recommendations for the development of Nordic cooperation were drawn from them. The TTD proved that Nordic coordination and consultations would

be essential in a hybrid scenario. The next TTD will be organised during the Norwegian chairmanship in 2022.

NORDEFCO has since 2019 had in place a **Crisis Consultation Mechanism (CCM)**, which allows the Nordic Ministries of Defence (the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the case of Iceland) to consult each other in any situation through a secure connection. The mechanism's processes were developed further in 2021 based on the experiences of using it during the past two years. The mechanism has been activated five times at the Ministerial level, two of which took place in 2021. In August, the Ministers consulted each other on to the evacuation operation in Afghanistan, and in December, they discussed the Russian military build-up close to the border of Ukraine and the situation in the Sahel region. Additionally, there have been a couple of expert consultations on the situation in and around Ukraine. The mechanism has proved a useful tool for information exchange and discussions, even on a quick notice.

In 2020, **military mobility in the air domain** was selected as the test case for examining possibilities for developing the Nordic



countries ability to act together in times of crisis and conflict. This work continued during the Finnish chairmanship. The test case was one of the main themes of the TTD and it was discussed at policy level meetings and at the military level throughout the year.

The work continues during the Norwegian chairmanship in 2022.

Additionally, it should be mentioned that NATO Secretary General's former Special Representative for Women, Peace and



Security gave the PSC secretariat an online presentation on the work being done within NATO on the use of gendered language.

Capability Cooperation

Strengthening Haga-NORDEFECO dialogue was the main priority of capability cooperation in 2021. However, there were other activities also worth reviewing.

There is a lot of potential in the Military Coordination Committees' (MCC) **Long Term Project Development** (LTPD) process and the PSC has been following up on the progress made. With regards to this, the PSC tasked the MCC to take **Arctic capabilities** into consideration in the LTPD process and to look into the possibility of adopting some of project proposals which had previously been discovered in the European Defence Agency's (EDA) project EMCA (European Maritime Capabilities in the Arctic). Capabilities that are usable in demanding Arctic conditions are important for all the Nordic countries.

The implementation of **NORECAS** (Nordic Enhanced Cooperation on Air Surveillance) has been delayed from its originally planned schedule due to the pandemic. The PSC has

encouraged the MCC to take prompt actions to make sure that NORECAS reaches its operational capability as soon as possible.

Total defence: Haga-NORDEFECO cooperation

The ability to respond to a variety of threats from a whole-of-society, all-hazards perspective is essential for any country. During the Finnish chairmanship, cooperation in the domain of total defence was advanced by strengthening the dialogue between NORDEFECO and the Haga working group. Haga refers to Nordic cooperation in the area of public safety, rescue services and preparedness. The Finnish Ministry of the Interior led Haga's work in 2021.

The dialogue focused on identifying potential areas of Nordic civil-military cooperation. The Chair organised several expert meetings during the year and the work culminated in a first ever joint Haga-NORDEFECO Directors' meeting in Helsinki in October. The discussions were productive and all countries stressed their willingness to continue the dialogue. Recent experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic underline the need for an ability to respond to crises

“Recent experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic underline the need for an ability to respond to crises through international cooperation.”

through international cooperation. While many shared areas of interest were identified, CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives) and Nordic civil-military exercises were chosen as themes for further work. Well-functioning civil-military cooperation is invaluable in any large-scale CBRNE crisis, as relatively recent experiences in the UK have shown. Sharing best civil-military practices among our five countries could enhance Nordic preparedness. The work continues during Norway's NORDEFECO chairmanship in 2022.

Armament and Defence Industry Cooperation

Military Security of Supply

As the COVID-19 crisis highlighted the importance of the Security of Supply, one of the Finnish chairmanship's priorities was to examine the impacts of the pandemic on military Security of Supply (SoS), especially on defence materiel projects, defence industry and industrial base. Strengthening the resilience to unexpected non-military events affecting our military capability development requires an active and flexible partnership

with the Nordic defence industry. Therefore, representatives from the defence industry were participating in the work.

In May 2021, Finland organized a virtual workshop with focus on the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on Nordic military SoS and on the mitigating activities taken by the Nordic defence administrations to secure the essential military SoS. Approximately 50 government and defence industry experts participated in the workshop.

Based on the work of the NORDEFECO network during the Finnish chairmanship, including the workshop, the analysis of the military level, and various discussions in NORDEFECO meetings, [a report](#) was published in November 2021. The report presents the key impacts of the pandemic on the military SoS and the mitigating activities of the Nordic defence administrations, and outlines potential activities for future cooperation. According to the early findings, the pandemic has caused some delays in defence materiel projects but it did not appear to have a major impact on the military SoS in the short term. However, towards the end of the chairmanship, the circumstances regarding the SoS took a turn for the worse

as the shortage of components and raw materials, delays in cross-border deliveries, and higher transportation costs started to affect the Nordic defence industry.

European Defence Fund

To operationalize the Vision 2025, one of the goals is to have an active and flexible partner in the Nordic defence industry in developing capabilities and finding new solutions to armaments and total defence requirements, including through utilization of the possibilities inherent in the European Defence Fund (EDF). One of the priorities during the Finnish chairmanship was to explore how to improve the utilization of the European instruments, in particular the EDF, in the Nordic context. This work began during the Danish chairmanship in 2020 when the Nordic countries began to explore joint Nordic possibilities within the EDF.

During the Finnish chairmanship, the Nordic countries discussed how to achieve better information sharing and improve coordination, perhaps even find common project proposals for the later years of the EDF. As the cooperation with the



defence industry is essential, the industry representatives participated in this work. The Nordic countries see potential for Nordic cooperation within the EDF stemming from the shared operational environment and common capability needs. In August 2021, Finland organized a virtual workshop, where the Nordic countries and defence industry explored possibilities for Nordic armaments and defence industry cooperation inherent in the EDF. In November, [a report](#) was published. The report covers the main findings of the Finnish chairmanship, including the workshop, the analysis of the military level, and various discussions in NORDEFECO meetings.

The EDF has already increased cooperation, both within the defence industry and between governments. The Nordic countries have established a good foundation for cooperation, and progress has already been achieved in information exchange and sharing best practices related to the EDF, national EDF organization, processes, and structures. The Nordic experts have held regular meetings that were chaired by Sweden in 2021. The expert group has discussed

national approaches to co-funding issues and coordination between industry, stakeholders and Armed Forces. Efforts towards matchmaking between the Nordic industry and research actors have also been made. From October 2021, the Baltic nations were invited to the regular meetings, and in November, the expert group met with the National Defence Industry Associations (NDIAs) to discuss possibilities for cooperation within the EDF.

Activities under the Agreement on Nordic Defence Materiel Cooperation

In order to simplify procedures and facilitate Nordic cooperation in the defence material area, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden have signed (Nov 2020) the Annex on Nordic export control. Finland convened the first meeting under the Annex in September 2021. The expert-level meeting focused on topical issues, including national practices on intangible exports and export control in the EDIDP and EDF projects. The aim of the meeting was to exchange information and best practices to gain a better understanding of the regulatory framework within the Nordic countries. Hosting future meetings under

the Annex remains at the discretion of the NORDEFECO chairmanship.

The objective of the Annex concerning Security of Supply is to agree on how to establish, support and sustain Security of Supply among the Annex participants in times of peace, crisis and war. In 2021, the Nordic countries were exploring cooperation opportunities within the area of ammunitions. The Nordic countries continue preparing implementing arrangements where the actual joint activities are outlined.

The Nordic Combat Uniform

The Nordic Combat Uniform is the flagship project of the Nordic armament cooperation. The project contains the joint procurement of a complete combat uniform system to the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish defence forces. The project continued in 2021, and a contract is expected to be signed in the first half of 2022.

3. Military Coordination Committee (MCC) activities

The overall objective of NORDEFSCO on the military level is cooperation across the entire range of defence structures in order to achieve better cost-effectiveness and quality, and thereby creating enhanced operational capability. During 2021 the focus of the work has been on implementing the Vision 2025 and the 2021 MCC Action plan. Five PSC taskings were facilitated and military advice or suggestion for further action was produced.

Military cooperation was conducted in different combinations within the Nordic countries. Additionally, during the year 2021 MCC also maintained a dialogue with the Baltic States.

Green Defence was chosen as one of the military specific priorities for 2021. Defence sector is dependent on the surrounding society and the environment. The methods

of defence must be developed to meet the changes in the operating environment, in technology, warfare and society. Combating climate change affects all activities of the armed forces. Our long-term goal is operational activities that follow the principles of sustainable development. As a continuation of earlier initiatives, a "Green Defence Webinar" was organized in November 2021. It offered stakeholders and participants from all Nordic countries a valuable possibility to both share their views and listen to expert presentations on the matter.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced NORDEFSCO military actors to find practical solutions for conducting meetings, exercises and to share information. Despite the ongoing pandemic and turbulence in the security environment, set goals were met.

Cooperation Areas (COPAs)

The cooperation areas (COPAs) are central parts of the NORDEFSCO military framework.

They are responsible for the implementation of decisions made by the MCC. The COPAs produce added value to the participating countries in the form of cost savings, exchange or sharing information and best practices and sharing of national resources.

The complex security environment requires looking at the problems from different angles. This also requires capabilities to solve problems in new ways. During the year 2021, several new tasks were solved in cooperation between two or more COPAs.

COOPERATION AREA CAPABILITES (COPA CAPA)

COPA CAPA addresses the development, plans and processes with the aim of identifying areas for cooperation. Based on common needs and mutual benefit COPA CAPA explores the possibilities of reducing costs and promoting operational effectiveness. Research and Technology (R&T) is an integral part of the capability

development process in COPA CAPA, also adding to the strategic long-term dimension of the work.

The main effort for the COPA CAPA has been to focus on the implementation of the Long-Term Project Development (LTPD) process. It is a systematic tool for finding a shared military-strategic approach and understanding of which capability areas are most beneficial to develop together.

During the year COPA CAPA has also looked into Arctic capabilities with the overall aim to identify common Nordic needs for Arctic military capability developments and to reach a mutual understanding of shortfalls in this setting. Satellite communications (SATCOM) has been identified as an area for possible cooperation and will be advanced as part of the LTPD process.

The goal of Nordic Enhanced Cooperation in Air Surveillance (NORECAS) project is to be able to share radar plot information between NORDEF countries to improve air surveillance. The project has moved forward, albeit slowly due to the pandemic.

COOPERATION AREA ARMAMENTS (COPA ARMA)

COPA ARMA aims to achieve financial, technical and/or industrial benefits for all of the member countries within the field of acquisition and life cycle support. This is primarily achieved through the screening process in which nations by the transparent and mutual exchange of information on planned national procurement identify and utilize possibilities for common development programs, procurement and maintenance of existing and emerging capabilities.

COPA ARMA contributed to the work of the Finnish chairmanship by participating in the Security of Supply workshop in May 2021 and providing a comprehensive written report on the consequences of COVID-19 on military Security of Supply.

COPA ARMA supported by COPA CAPA has assessed how the European Defence Fund (EDF) could be utilized in the Nordic context. Potential of the EDF will be considered as part of the ongoing LTPD process.

COOPERATION AREA HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION (COPA HR&E)

The purpose of COPA HR&E is to investigate, explore and recognize possible common Nordic activities in the field of HR&E to gain operational benefits and optimized resources. The purpose is also to avoid duplication and to achieve cost savings in the long term. COPA HR&E works as a hub to coordinate and facilitate platforms for experts of different areas to meet regularly and to exchange information and best practices in certain fields of expertise. One important area of cooperation is military education on all levels in a Nordic context.

During 2021 COPA HR&E had several active projects under its auspices, including veteran issues, training and education, military psychology, language and human resources.

COOPERATION AREA TRAINING AND EXERCISE (COPA TEX)

COPA TEX aims to continuously identify possibilities for coordination and harmonization of military training and exercise activities among the Nordic countries. COPA TEX identifies, discusses

and coordinates information sharing and cooperation concerning future training and exercise opportunities.

Most of the exercises in the Nordic Top Exercises List for 2021 were conducted as planned, even though some of the exercises were conducted with limitations.

COOPERATION AREA OPERATIONS (OPS)

The core task of COPA OPS is to identify potential operational cooperation between the Nordic countries on a bi- or multilateral basis, while ensuring close dialogue between operational planners regarding current operations and plans as well as monitor the global situation. Additionally, it is used for conducting operationally oriented analysis. The most important part of COPA OPS' work is to build trust and confidence between the Nordic nation's military HQs, thus establishing a network with the ability to handle more time critical issues.

COPA OPS looked into military mobility in the air domain to examine possibilities to develop the ability of the Nordic countries to act together, including times of crises and conflict.





4. Arctic Challenge Exercise 2021

Since 2013, the tactical air combat Arctic Challenge Exercise (ACE) has taken place every other year in the northern part of Sweden, Finland and Norway with rotational lead among the Nordic countries. In 2021, Norway was responsible for conducting the exercise.

Several invited nations have participated throughout the years, and the ACE was officially named a high-quality European Air Combat Flag Level Exercise in 2019. The exercise has gradually grown in complexity with considerable support and participation from the United States Air Force. This year, due to the pandemic, the scope of the exercise was reduced by approximately 40%. The exercise took place in June 2021 with participation from Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, US Air Force, US Air National Guard and NATO.

The exercise is a fighter dominant tactical air combat exercise supported by Ground Based Air Defence, Electronic Warfare, Personal

Recovery, Air-to-Air Refueling, Joint Terminal Attack Controller and Command and Control capability. The aim of ACE21 was to conduct a safe and effective high-quality flag level exercise in a multi domain environment, integrating NATO and partner nations. This included integration of 5th Generation fighters for the first-time.

ACE21 was executed over ten flying days with two flying waves per day. The focus was on the main wave where Composite Air Operations/Large Force Employment missions were flown under a simulated United Nations mandate as a coalition force from multiple bases. A common airspace of unprecedented size and opportunities over Sweden, Norway and Finland was utilized.

"ACE sends a clear signal of the strong cooperation that exists between the Nordic countries and partners in the High North."

The setting was a coalition mindset with high intensity, high risk, with near peer adversaries. In the shadow wave, units were flying training missions within their Host Nation airspace in smaller scenarios, focusing on units training requirements.

ACE sends a clear signal of the strong cooperation that exists between the Nordic countries and partners in the High North and serves as a stabilizing factor for the region. It is an important step in reaching the targets stated in NORDEFCO's Vision 2025 by facilitating interoperability between our countries as well as enhancing Nordic-Transatlantic relations.

The next ACE will take place in 2023 under Finnish leadership.

5. Norwegian NORDEFCO Chairmanship 2022



In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that established the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFCO) in 2009, the purpose of NORDEFCO is to strengthen the Participants' national defence, explore common synergies and facilitate efficient common solutions. Norway holds the chairmanship in 2022, and will lead and develop the cooperation in line with the goals outlined in the NORDEFCO Vision for 2025.

The following six priorities will guide the cooperation during Norway's chairmanship in 2022:

Strengthening operational cooperation

Norway aims to follow up the most central goal of NORDEFCO's Vision 2025 – to improve the Nordic countries ability to act together in peace, crisis and conflict. Existing trilateral agreements between the NORDEFCO nations facilitate operational cooperation in the Northern Calotte, in the North Sea, Skagerak and the inlet to

the Baltic Sea. Norway aims to align these initiatives with ongoing work in NORDEFECO. Furthermore, we propose to expand the geographic area of operational planning to include all Nordic territories that are relevant for Nordic military cooperation.

Total Defence

Norway aims to strengthen Nordic civil-military cooperation through the Haga-NORDEFECO dialogue. CBRNE and civil-military exercises have been identified as cooperation areas for further work. Haga and NORDEFECO will work closely with the ministries responsible for readiness in the civilian sector, and aim to formulate a long-term vision for total defence cooperation in the Nordic region.

Military Security of Supply

Norway will continue the ongoing initiatives that seek to strengthen Nordic military security of supply (SoS). Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have signed an annex to the Nordic agreement on co-operation in the field of defence equipment. The

annex enables long-term defence materiel cooperation between the Nordic countries and confirms a mutual obligation between the nations to support each other with the supply of materiel and services in times of crisis and conflict. Norway will additionally focus on a separate sub-agreement with the aim of establishing a joint Nordic co-operation with a strategic partner in the area of ammunition.

New Technology

Norway seeks to strengthen the Nordics' ability to exploit Emerging and Disruptive Technologies (EDT). Space is a prioritized area within NORDEFECO, and Satellite communication (SATCOM) is identified as a possible field for increased Nordic cooperation. Norway leads an international civil-military collaborative satellite program, which aims to establish broadband in the Arctic from 2023. The Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission (ASBM) is managed by Space Norway, a government-owned satellite operator. Together with Space Norway, HEO2 is identified as a follow-on project. HEO2 could be an arena for enhanced Nordic cooperation within SATCOM.

Nordic Defence Industry Cooperation

Norway will explore possibilities for strengthening Nordic defence industry cooperation by sharing experiences and lessons learned in the NORDEFECO format. During 2021 both Denmark and Norway published defence industrial strategies that highlight the importance of international defence industrial cooperation. Defence industrial cooperation is important to enhance operational capability, readiness and supply security by strengthening the defence industry's expertise and competitiveness.

Nordic cooperation in the European Defence Fund (EDF)

Norway will continue to explore the possibilities for Nordic cooperation in the European Defence Fund (EDF). Information exchange mechanisms are in place within NORDEFECO to discuss experiences and keep each other informed on national developments in relation to EDF.

The NORDEFCO structure

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which established the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFCO) in 2009, the purpose of the cooperation is to strengthen the Participants' national defence, explore common synergies and facilitate efficient common solutions. The one-year chairmanship rotates between the Nordic countries, excluding Iceland. Finland held the chairmanship in 2021. The chair is responsible for leading and developing the cooperation in line with the goals outlined in NORDEFCO's long-term Vision 2025.

The NORDEFCO structure includes both policy and military cooperation levels. Iceland participates in the policy level of the cooperation, whilst the other Nordic countries participate at all levels.

At the top are the Nordic Ministers of Defence, who as a minimum meet twice a year. In 2021, they met four times, including two virtual crisis consultations. In addition, the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Defence meet once a year. The day-to-day work at the policy level is carried out by the Policy Steering Committee (PSC), where the Nordic states are represented by senior departmental officers. The PSC has a Secretariat, which acts as the preparatory body. At the military level, the Chiefs of Defence meet a minimum of twice a year; once with the Military Coordination Committee (MCC), and once with the National Armament Directors. The MCC coordinates activities at the military level, with the MCC Coordination Staff acting as its preparatory body.

Policy level

Ministers of Defence

Policy Steering Committee
(PSC)
PSC Secretariat

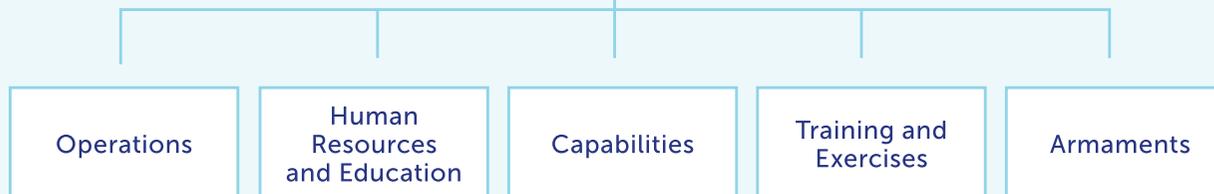
Permanent Secretaries

Military level

Military Coordination
Committee (MCC)
MCC Coordination Staff

Chiefs of Defence

Cooperation Areas (COPAs)



NORDEFCO



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