Statement of Intent between the Secretary of Defense of the United States of America and the Minister for Defence of Sweden

Introduction
Transatlantic cooperation is crucial for U.S. and European security, and many global and regional challenges can only be addressed if Europe and the United States are acting together. In Europe, the significance of the Baltic Sea Region to security has increased.

The security challenges are greater and more complex than in decades. Regional powers are testing their strength against neighbors, other States and international institutions, and our security is increasingly affected by threats from terrorism and extremist violence.

Swedish-U.S. combined efforts, including joint air, land, and maritime exercises, as well as operations and capacity building missions, contribute to efforts to meet challenges to international peace and security.

Aim
This Statement of Intent sets out our strategic resolve to increase the understanding and cooperation between our respective Defense Ministries, Armed Forces, and defence agencies; to build on current cooperative activities; to identify and prioritize new initiatives; to work together to develop our defense capabilities; to enhance our interoperability and ability to deploy alongside each other operationally and thereby improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our defense efforts.

Objectives
Security policy is one of the priority areas for deepened cooperation in the broad bilateral relations between the United States and Sweden.

The importance of our long-standing defense cooperation was reiterated at the bilateral ministerial meeting in May of 2015. It was agreed that the United States and Sweden should further strengthen the defense cooperation between our two countries. These efforts can be divided into five key areas:

- Enhancing our interoperability;
- Strengthening our capabilities and posture through training and exercises;
- Deepening our armament cooperation;
- Advancing our cooperation in research and development; and
- Meeting common challenges in multinational operations.

In order to do so, the United States and Sweden will seek to:
a. Deepen our dialogue and information sharing focusing on an improved understanding of the security environment in Northern Europe and how we can respond to challenges together;

b. Develop our military-to-military dialogue and explore possible new areas for military cooperation;

c. Increase our interoperability and bolster our capabilities through training and exercises, also recognizing that training and exercises send a distinct political signal;

d. Continue to develop bilateral and multinational staff exercises, and develop new concepts for bilateral and multilateral activities;

e. Secure capabilities needed today and tomorrow, focusing on armament cooperation in air power and underwater warfare as well as related sensors, weapons and platforms;

f. Ensure relevant capabilities for the future, including research and development in areas such as underwater warfare and air defence systems and cyber; and

g. Develop our cooperation in ongoing multinational operations, including by sharing lessons learned and best practices, in order to improve our operations through the United Nations (UN), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and other relevant fora.

We will also engage in a more frequent political dialogue on defense and security matters, discussing common security challenges both regionally and globally. In our joint activities, we intend to promote the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security and subsequent resolutions.

Status
This Statement of Intent does not represent a legally binding commitment between the Government of the United States and Sweden under international or national law. The implementation of this document will be reviewed biannually.

Signed in duplicate.

Secretary of Defense of   Minister for Defence of
the United States of America   Sweden

Date: Date: