



Government Offices of Sweden

Seventh support package for Ukraine

The Government will donate artillery ammunition worth approximately SEK 500 million to help defend Ukraine.

Since February this year, Sweden has donated defence equipment to Ukraine through five different support packages. The sixth support package took the form of a training initiative. Swedish instructors are currently providing basic training for Ukrainian soldiers in the United Kingdom.

The seventh Swedish support package consists of artillery ammunition worth approximately SEK 500 million. The ammunition is compatible with the artillery systems currently in use, can be used immediately upon delivery and will contribute substantially to Ukraine's military capability.

Published 01 September 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Press conference with Nordic and Baltic defence ministers on Gotland, Friday 2 September 2022

On Friday 2 September, defence ministers of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden will meet at the Gotland Regiment (P 18) to discuss defence cooperation.

The Gotland Regiment (P 18), Västerhejde skjutfältet 821

The ministers will address the media in a press conference held in connection with the meeting. Individual interviews are also available.

Time

Friday 2 September, 12.30–13.30.

Place

The Gotland Regiment (P 18), Västerhejde skjutfältet 821.

Swedish media

Swedish media must register by Thursday 1 September at 9.00 via email to Maj-Britt L Persson, see press contact below.

Please give your name, personal identity number, telephone number, the name of your editorial office and the capacity in which you wish to attend (reporter or photographer). Please submit your press credentials as well.

International media

International media must submit the form 'Request for visit'. Submit a complete form by Wednesday 31 August at 11.00 to Maj-Britt L Persson, see press contact below.

The form is available under the heading ‘Read more’.

Since the press conference will take place in a protected area, it is not possible to register after the deadline has passed.

Assembly by the gate to the Gotland Regiment (P 18),
Västerhejde skjutfältet 821, by Friday 2 September at 12.00.

Participation is subject to available space.

Published 30 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist to attend defence ministers meeting in Prague

On 30 August, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will meet his EU colleagues in Prague, Czechia. The main focus of the meeting will be on support for Ukraine. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, will also attend parts of the meeting.

The Czech Republic currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, so the informal meeting of EU defence ministers will be held in Prague.

The agenda includes discussions on the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and continued support from EU countries to Ukraine. Oleksii Reznikov, Ukraine's defence minister, is expected to join via videoconference to talk about the country's needs. The EU defence ministers will also discuss defence industrial issues at the meeting.

The meeting will be preceded by a joint dinner on the evening of 29 August.

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will be available for interviews in connection with the meeting. Please contact Press Secretary Ulrika Langels.

Published 29 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist to meet defence ministers from Finland and Norway

On 25 August, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will travel to Finland to meet Finland's Minister of Defence Antti Kaikkonen and Norway's Minister of Defence Bjørn Arild Gram.

Mr Hultqvist and Mr Kaikkonen will discuss bilateral Swedish-Finnish defence cooperation and the ongoing NATO accession process.

In conjunction with the bilateral meeting with Mr Kaikkonen, a meeting will be held between Mr Hultqvist, Mr Kaikkonen and Mr Arild Gram concerning the trilateral defence cooperation between Sweden, Finland and Norway. During their meeting, the ministers will discuss the security situation in the neighbourhood and strengthening the defence of their shared regions such as the Cap of the North.

There will be time for interviews; please contact Press Secretary Ulrika Langels.

Published 24 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist to take part in international conference on support for Ukraine

On Thursday 11 August, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will travel to Copenhagen to take part in an international donor conference in support of Ukraine. Defence ministers from 17 countries will take part in the conference to discuss financial support for Ukraine as well as defence equipment and military training support.

Denmark, Ukraine and the United Kingdom will host the Copenhagen Conference for Northern European Defence Allies in the Danish capital.

Defence ministers from Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States will discuss continued support for Ukraine at the conference. One key question is how support for Ukraine can be developed and become more long-term.

“As long as Russia’s brutal and unlawful war continues, the rest of the world needs to continue supporting Ukraine. It is about Ukraine’s security, but also all of Europe’s security. At the conference, I expect that we will make further progress in concretising our support for Ukraine,” says Mr Hultqvist.

During the conference, Mr Hultqvist will take part in a press conference and will be available for interviews. See press contact below.

Published 10 August 2022



Sweden to train Ukrainian soldiers in UK

The Government has decided that the Swedish Armed Forces will send instructors to the UK to give Ukrainian citizens basic military training to enable them to serve in Ukraine's armed forces. The aim is to make it possible for Ukraine to maintain and strengthen its defence capabilities.

The initiative to offer basic military training to Ukrainian citizens comes from the UK – the country has invited other partner nations in the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) and Canada to contribute.

The Government has now decided that Sweden will contribute by training Ukrainian soldiers.

Between 12 August and 31 December 2022, the Swedish Armed Forces will send up to 120 instructors to the UK to conduct basic military training for Ukrainian citizens, divided into several training courses.

“Russia's war against Ukraine has been going on for over five months, and it's immensely important that the rest of the world continues to support Ukraine in its fight for sovereignty and self-determination. It's important that Sweden is part of these efforts, and the Swedish instructors will contribute to strengthening Ukraine's defence capabilities,” says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

In total, approximately 10 000 Ukrainian citizens are expected take part in the training programme in the UK. A maximum of 60 Swedish instructors will be in the UK simultaneously – this is not expected to have any significant impact on the Swedish Armed Forces' other activities.

The Swedish part of the training programme will begin as soon as it is practically possible. For further information, please contact the Swedish

Armed Forces, +46 8-788 75 00.

Published 07 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence to visit international air exercise in Såtenäs

On 4–6 July, the Swedish and British Air Forces conduct a joint exercise at Skaraborg Air Force Wing (F 7) in Såtenäs. Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will visit the exercise on 5 July.

The exercise includes planes such as the JAS 39 Gripen and the Eurofighter Typhoon, and takes place within the framework of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF).

The JEF is led by the UK, and partner nations include both Sweden and Finland. In light of their applications for NATO membership, a series of JEF exercises will be held in Sweden and Finland in the second half of the year.

“When the defence ministers from the JEF partner nations met in Oslo in June, they all expressed strong support for Sweden’s and Finland’s applications to join NATO. Other partner nations also promised to increase their presence in the Baltic Sea region while Sweden and Finland wait to become NATO members. This exercise is an important part of that presence,” says Mr Hultqvist.

Mr Hultqvist will attend a press conference at F 7 on 5 July. Participants will assemble in the reception area at 10.45.

Journalists can register with their name and personal identity number by 4 July at 17.00 via email to f7-info@mil.se.

After the press conference, Mr Hultqvist will be available for individual interviews. Please see contact details of his press secretary below.

Published 04 July 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist to attend defence ministers meeting in Oslo

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will travel to Oslo to attend a meeting on 14–15 June with his colleagues from the countries participating in the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF).

When the defence ministers of the ten countries participating in the JEF meet in Norway, Russia's war against Ukraine will be on the agenda.

The ministers will discuss, among other things, the impact of the war on the security situation in northern Europe, support for Ukraine and increased training activities in response to Sweden's and Finland's applications for NATO membership.

They will also discuss their cooperation over the previous year and future activities within the JEF.

“The JEF is a partnership between ten like-minded countries in northern Europe. It is an important partnership for Sweden, and we welcome plans for more JEF activities in our neighbourhood. It is positive that the JEF, through various exercises, for example, now has an increased presence in the Baltic Sea region while Sweden and Finland await a decision on NATO membership,” says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Published 13 June 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Regional security on the agenda at defence ministers meeting in Iceland

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will be in Reykjavik, Iceland on 7–8 June to take part in a ministerial meeting of the Northern Group defence policy forum.

The meeting in Reykjavik will bring together defence ministers from the countries that make up the Northern Group – the Nordic and Baltic countries, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom – to discuss current issues.

The meeting will mainly focus on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impact on the security situation in northern Europe. The ministers will also discuss China's role in the region.

Published 07 June 2022



Additional amending budget with further support to Ukraine

The Government today adopted an additional amending budget with proposals for Sweden to provide Ukraine with financial support and equipment in response to Russia's invasion. The Government's proposals include Sweden donating defence materiel in the form of the RBS 17 anti-ship missile system, AG 90 anti-materiel sniper rifles and ammunition, and an additional 5 000 Swedish AT-4 recoilless anti-tank weapons.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is unprovoked, illegal and unjustifiable. It threatens international peace and security and is a violation of international law. As a sign of solidarity with Ukraine, and as part of the international response to Russia's actions, the Government considers it important to continue to support Ukraine.

As a result of Russia's invasion, Ukraine has requested support that includes additional defence materiel. The Swedish Armed Forces are able to manage without certain defence materiel for a limited period of time. The Government proposes that Sweden donate additional defence materiel to Ukraine in the form of the RBS 17 anti-ship missile system, AG 90 anti-materiel sniper rifles and ammunition, and an additional 5 000 Swedish AT-4 recoilless anti-tank weapons. Sweden also intends to contribute SEK 60 million to the fund set up by NATO intended to support the Ukrainian armed forces.

Earlier this spring, Sweden donated SEK 500 million to the National Bank of Ukraine's special fundraising account to support the country's armed forces. The Government now proposes that Sweden make an additional financial contribution of SEK 578 million to the fund. This support will help strengthen Ukraine's ability to fight Russia's aggression at a critical time.

Sweden has provided support to Ukrainian civil society through action via the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency within the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the UN. The Government also proposes including an additional SEK 100 million to this support.

The proposals presented mean that allocated funds to the government budget will increase by SEK 1 billion in 2022.

For further information about the weapon systems now being donated to Ukraine, please contact the Swedish Armed Forces.

Published 02 June 2022



Government approves additional military support to Ukraine

In March and April, the Government approved additional military support to Ukraine besides the support previously approved by the Riksdag and the Government.

The Government was able to approve the support independently as it consists of surplus materiel. The exact nature of the support is classified, and no further comment will be made at present. Secrecy is necessary to ensure that the support arrives and can be used by the Armed Forces of Ukraine, among other reasons.

The Government's focus is to continue to support Ukraine, including through military support. The question of additional possibilities for support is currently being prepared in the Government Offices.

Previous decisions

On two occasions since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, the Riksdag and the Government have approved support to the Armed Forces of Ukraine totalling 10 000 anti-tank weapons, 5 000 helmets, 5 000 body shields, field rations, mine clearance equipment and SEK 500 million.

On 13 April, the Government also decided to give EUR 5 million (around SEK 50 million) to Ukraine via a NATO fund. That support is primarily for use in projects to manage chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

Under the Budget Act, the Government can approve the transfer of equipment that is no longer needed for central government activities (surplus materiel). For equipment that is not surplus materiel, the Riksdag can permit the Government to transfer some materiel, for example if it is found that it can be spared for a limited period of time.

Published 25 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist to meet US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin in Washington

On Monday 16 May, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will travel to Washington DC to meet US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, at the invitation of the Pentagon. The meeting will focus on Russia's aggression against Ukraine and Sweden's forthcoming application for NATO membership.

Mr Hultqvist and Mr Austin will meet on 18 May and are also set to discuss bilateral Swedish-American defence cooperation, the security situation in Europe, China's defence policy and its consequences for Sweden and the US.

Mr Hultqvist will also meet with various members of the US Congress during his visit to Washington DC.

Published 16 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Media invitation: Result of security policy discussions to be presented

On 16 March this year, the Government initiated discussion with the parties of the Riksdag concerning the changed security situation following Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The result of these discussions will be presented at a press briefing on Friday 13 May.

The press briefing will be attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, Kenneth G. Forslund (Social Democratic Party), Hans Wallmark (Moderate Party), Pål Jonsson (Moderate Party), Aron Emilsson (Sweden Democrats), Kerstin Lundgren (Centre Party), Håkan Svenneling (Left Party), Mikael Oscarsson (Christian Democrat Party), Allan Widman (Liberal Party) and Maria Ferm (Green Party). The press conference will be held in Swedish.

Published 12 May 2022



Nordic defence ministers to meet in Kirkenes

On 11–12 May, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will travel to Kirkenes in Norway for a meeting on the regional security situation, held within the framework of the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO).

The meeting between the Nordic defence ministers is held against the backdrop of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“In light of today’s very serious security situation, cooperation between the Nordic countries is essential. NORDEFECO is fundamental for security in our neighbourhood,” says Mr Hultqvist.

NORDEFECO ministerial meetings are held twice a year and focus on further enhanced cooperation and the latest security policy developments.

The NORDEFECO chairmanship rotates between member states. Norway holds the chairmanship in 2022 and is therefore hosting the ministerial meeting in Kirkenes on 11–12 May. Sweden is set to hold the chairmanship in 2023.

Published 10 May 2022



Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist observes Cold Response 2022 exercise

On 25 March, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and the other Nordic defence ministers observed the Cold Response 2022 exercise in Norway. Conducted primarily in northern Norway, the exercise involves approximately 30 000 participants from 27 countries, including approximately 1 500 Swedish enlisted personnel and officers.

Sweden takes part with a number of ground units that, together with Finnish units, make up a reduced brigade combat group. Units from Norrbotten Air Force F 21 Wing also take part with JAS 39 Gripen planes. In total, approximately 150 enlisted personnel and officers from F 21 take part in the exercise.

“The aim of Sweden’s participation is to strengthen our national defence capability and increase the collective capability of the Swedish Armed Forces to respond to an attack against Sweden and against our neighbourhood. Participating in the exercise is an important part of the evolving cooperation with our close partners, the other Nordic countries and NATO. Through exercises like this, we demonstrate which resources we are able to mobilise if necessary,” says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Swedish contribution to Cold Response 2022

The participating Swedish ground units consist of approximately 1 500 enlisted personnel and officers from Norrbotten Regiment, Norrland Dragoon Regiment, Boden Artillery Regiment, Göta Logistic Regiment, the Armed Forces Technical School, the Armed Forces Centre for Defence Medicine, the Army Staff and the Land Warfare Centre.

The exercise is held in ground exercise areas in multiple regions of Norway. The ground exercise area in northern Norway extends from Narvik in the south to Finnmark in the north. The Swedish-Finnish brigade combat group operates predominantly in Troms county.

Part of these manoeuvres take place in Swedish territory, involving the transport of foreign units to and from the exercise and some smaller phases of the exercise in northern Sweden.

Organised every second year

Cold Response is organised in the month of March every second year. Norway and Sweden are joined in the exercise by Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and Turkey.

Published 25 March 2022



Defence ministers from Sweden and Estonia visit Gotland for talks on the security situation in the Baltic Sea region

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist visited the Gotland Regiment (P 18) on 23 March, together with Estonia's Minister of Defence Kalle Laanet. They held bilateral talks about the security situation in the Baltic Sea region and regional defence cooperation.

“Russian aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally changed the security situation in Europe. The Swedish Armed Forces continuously adapt their activities with regard to the situation. They have raised their readiness, with increased military presence on the island of Gotland among other things,” says Mr Hultqvist.

As the Minister for Defence visited the P 18 regiment together with his Estonian counterpart, they discussed both Sweden's and Estonia's bilateral defence cooperation and forums for multilateral defence cooperation that include both countries, such as the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), the European Intervention Initiative (EI2) and the EU.

“In this very severe situation it is important to maintain close contacts with other countries. Sweden's cooperation with other states in the Baltic Sea region, among them Estonia, is crucial for building security in our neighbourhood.”

During the meeting, Mr Hultqvist also highlighted the Swedish Government's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which follows a three-track approach: sanctions against the Russian regime, support to Ukraine and measures to strengthen Sweden.

Published 23 March 2022



Ukraine in focus as Peter Hultqvist took part in extraordinary meeting of NATO Ministers of Defence

The war in Ukraine prompted the NATO defence ministers to gather in Brussels on 16 March for an extraordinary meeting. A representative for the European External Action Service and the defence ministers from NATO partner countries Ukraine, Georgia, Finland and Sweden also took part in the meeting.

The main focus of the meeting was how EU, NATO and NATO partner countries can cooperate further to manage the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Europe.

While addressing the meeting, Sweden's Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist highlighted the Swedish Government's three-track approach in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine: sanctions against the Russian regime, support to Ukraine and measures to strengthen Sweden.

“Sweden condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms,” said Mr Hultqvist.

Mr Hultqvist also mentioned that, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, Sweden's cooperation with NATO has deepened, with improved exchange of information and coordination of activities and strategic communication.

“Cooperation between countries is crucial for security and stability in our neighbourhood. Sweden's strengthened partnership with NATO is incredibly important given the worsening security situation.”

In conjunction with the NATO ministerial meeting, Mr Hultqvist had separate meetings with General Tod D. Wolters, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and British Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace, as well as a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg together with Finland's Minister of Defence Antti Kaikkonen.

Published 16 March 2022



Sweden takes part in Joint Expeditionary Force exercise

Sweden is taking part in a joint exercise within the framework of the Joint Expeditionary Force defence cooperation, that started on Friday. Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist was present in Denmark for the start of the exercise, which is taking place against the backdrop of the rapidly worsening security situation in Europe.

“Russia’s armed attack on Ukraine is an attack on every country’s right to decide its own future. It is a threat to international peace and security. The Swedish Government’s response is focused on three areas: sanctions against Russia, support to Ukraine and strengthening Sweden,” says Mr Hultqvist.

Participation in joint military exercises with other countries is an important part of the efforts to strengthen Sweden and Swedish defence capabilities, with the current Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) exercise being one example.

“When I last met with the defence ministers from the other JEF countries, we stated that the threats to the European security order that we are seeing are unacceptable. We decided to implement several joint JEF exercises over the coming months, against the backdrop of the development of the security situation,” says Mr Hultqvist.

During his visit to Denmark for the start of the JEF exercise, Mr Hultqvist participated in a working lunch with his counterparts from the nine other JEF countries.



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence visited joint Swedish-Finnish preparedness exercise in the Baltic Sea

Against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the rapidly worsening security situation in the neighbourhood, Sweden and Finland are ramping up their joint military activities. On 2 March, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist visited a joint preparedness exercise in the Baltic Sea.

Swedish Gripen and Finnish F 18 fighter aircrafts took part in the exercise, as well as naval ships from both countries.

“The Swedish Government's response to this crisis covers three areas: sanctions against Russia, support to Ukraine and strengthening Sweden. Joint exercises with Finland are an important part of strengthening Swedish defence. Those exercises increase our capability to take action together as neighbours if needed”, says Mr Hultqvist.

Sweden and Finland have far-reaching bilateral defence cooperation. Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February underlines the importance of this cooperation, according to the Swedish Minister for Defence:

“Russia and the Russian regime are a threat to the European security order and every country's right to decide its own future.”

At the same time as the Baltic Sea exercise is taking place, Sweden and Finland are both providing defence materiel to Ukraine.

“We are taking this step together with many other countries. We are doing so because the war in Ukraine is a threat to Europe and European values as a whole. It is an exceptional situation”, says Mr Hultqvist.

Published 02 March 2022



Peter Hultqvist attends Joint Expeditionary Force ministerial meeting

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist took part in a defence ministers meeting on 22 February within the framework of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF). At the annual ministerial meeting, which was held in the United Kingdom, the attendees discussed the development of the security situation in Europe and upcoming JEF exercises, among other things.

The annual JEF ministerial meeting gathered defence ministers from the ten participating states for discussions that initially concerned the development of the security situation in Europe.

“Over time, we have seen a deterioration of the security situation in our neighbourhood. We stated that threats to the European security order are unacceptable,” says Mr Hultqvist.

Also discussed at the meeting were cooperation between the JEF and NATO and planning for the JEF’s operations over the next two years, including scenario-based discussions in which representatives of the JEF member states discussed how to handle various courses of events. The defence ministers also decided to implement joint JEF exercises over the coming months, against the backdrop of the development of the security situation.

“The JEF is a priority for Sweden. Like the other forms of international defence cooperation we participate in, it contributes to increasing Sweden’s national defence capabilities and its capability to take joint action in the event of a crisis,” says Mr Hultqvist.

The JEF is a framework for a rapid reaction force and is led by the UK. The

JEF can act independently or within the framework of a UN, NATO or EU operation in the event of a crisis, and focuses on northern Europe. In addition to the UK and Sweden, the members of the JEF are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Norway.

Published 22 February 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Press briefing with Swedish Minister for Defence and Minister of Defence of Ukraine on Tuesday 14 December

Swedish Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and Minister of Defence of Ukraine Oleksii Reznikov will hold a joint press briefing in connection with Minister Reznikov's visit to Sweden.

Online via Zoom or Bella, (entrance via security at Rödbodgatan 6, Stockholm)

Time: Tuesday 14 December 2021 13.30-14.00 Central European Time (CET)

Venue: Online via Zoom or Bella, (entrance via security at Rödbodgatan 6, Stockholm)

Language: English

The press briefing will be held in a hybrid format, online via Zoom and at Bella. Instructions on how to join the press briefing digitally will be sent separately. Admission from 13.00 for members of media participating at Bella. Press credentials and registration required.

Registration: The registration deadline has passed.

Published 13 December 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Comment from Minister for Defence on Finland's decision regarding acquisition of fighter aircraft

We regret that Finland did not choose Gripen and GlobalEye.

We are convinced that Gripen and GlobalEye would have been very good choices also for Finland, combining highly capable aircraft systems with low costs and high availability. The systems are tailor-made for our common security challenges as well as the harsh Nordic environmental conditions.

Having said that, we fully respect the Finnish decision. Our excellent defence cooperation will of course continue. Finland will continue to be our closest security and defence policy partner. Over a long period of time the relationship has been based on common geostrategic interests and common views on security challenges.

The geographic and military-strategic realities underscore the need for continued and deepened defence cooperation and we will continue the work on creating prerequisites for combined joint military operations in peace, crisis and war.

Published 10 December 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Press briefing with Swedish Minister for Defence and UK Secretary for Defence on Thursday 9 December at 17.00

Swedish Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom Ben Wallace will hold a joint press briefing in connection with Secretary Wallace's visit to Sweden on 9-10 December, which includes a visit to Norrland Dragoon Regiment in Arvidsjaur (K4) and bilateral meetings in Stockholm.

Online via Zoom or Bella, (entrance via security at Rödbodgatan 6, Stockholm)

At the press briefing Minister Hultqvist and Secretary Wallace will make short introductory remarks on the bilateral military cooperation between Sweden and the UK, on the development of the regional security situation in Northern Europe and in the Arctic Region. Following the introductory remarks, Minister Hultqvist and Secretary Wallace will take questions.

Time: Thursday 9 December 2021 17.00–17.30 Central European Time (CET)

Venue: Online via Zoom or Bella, (entrance via security at Rödbodgatan 6, Stockholm)

Language: English

The press briefing will be held in a hybrid format, online via Zoom and at Bella. Instructions on how to join the press briefing digitally will be sent separately. Admission from 16.15 to 16.30 for members of media participating at Bella. Press credentials and registration required.

Registration: The registration deadline has passed.

Published 07 December 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Change of government, 30 November 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government takes place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty the King. The Council of State begins at 13.00.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 22 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry of Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for International Development Cooperation

Press contacts:

Linda Romanus, Press Secretary to Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson

Tel: +46 73 543 61 59

Johan Ekström, Press Secretary to Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson

Tel: +46 73 086 32 01

Tove Kullenberg, Press Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren

Tel: +46 73 842 50 59

Nadja Yusuf, Press Secretary to Minister for Employment and Gender
Equality Eva Nordmark

Tel: +46 73 085 00 49

Fredrik Persson, Press Secretary to Minister for Housing and Deputy
Minister for Employment Johan Danielsson

Tel: +46 73 072 81 36

Mirjam Kontio, Press Secretary to Minister for Finance Mikael Damberg

Tel: +46 73 074 05 57

Simon Sätherberg, Press Secretary to Minister for Financial Markets Max
Elger

Tel: +46 73 086 23 07

Mikael Lindström, Press Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ida
Karkiainen

Tel: +46 73 078 52 60

Toni Eriksson, Press Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist

Tel: +46 73 072 83 16

Jennie Zetterström, Press Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Tel: +46 73 053 92 70

Sofia Brändström, Press Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Khashayar Farmanbar

Tel: +46 73 065 16 12

Sofie Rudh, Press Secretary to Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson

Tel: +46 72 545 74 21

Per Strängberg, Press Secretary to Minister for Integration and Migration Anders Ygeman

Tel: +46 73 093 90 56

Tora Heckscher, Press Secretary to Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter

Tel: +46 73 093 50 83

Håkan Gestrin, Press Secretary to Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhäll

Tel: +46 73 038 20 42

Kajsa Loord, Press Secretary to Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson

Tel: +46 73 075 97 31

Max Ney, Press Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Anna-Caren Säterberg

Tel: +46 73 094 25 40

Elin Aarflot, Press Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren

Tel: +46 73 274 23 53

Hanna Kretz, Press Secretary to Minister for Social Security Ardalan Shekarabi

Tel: +46 73 064 96 04

Anja Lindberg Sundberg, Press Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström

Tel: +46 76 116 77 45

Maria Soläng, Press Secretary to Minister for Schools Lina Axelsson Kihlblom

Tel: +46 72 206 19 47

Andreas Enbuske, Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde

Tel: +46 76 130 58 86

Vidar Jakobínuson Lindgren, Acting Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg

Tel: +46 73 840 33 12

Darina Agha, Press Secretary to Minister for International Development
Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans

Tel: +46 73 592 85 48

Published 30 November 2021



NATO Secretary General to visit Sweden and Finland

On 25–27 October, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the NAC – NATO’s principal political decision-making body – will visit Sweden and Finland which are partners to NATO.

The North Atlantic Council (NAC), the principal political decision-making body within NATO, where every member country is represented by an ambassador, conducts a number of international visits every year. The NAC is chaired by Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. NAC visits are made to member countries of the Alliance and to partner countries. A NAC visit to Sweden and Finland will take place on 25–27 October. The visit will begin in Finland on 25 October and continue in Sweden on 26–27 October.

The programme includes discussions on security developments in Finland’s and Sweden’s neighbourhood and on the countries’ close partnership with NATO. The visit will also highlight the close security cooperation between Finland and Sweden, not least in the defence area. It will also offer an insight into Sweden’s efforts to enhance its military and civil defence within the total defence framework.

“I am delighted that I will have the opportunity next week to welcome NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the NATO countries’ ambassadors to Sweden. Our partnership is an important part of Sweden’s security and defence policy, and the visit is a natural part of this partnership. The visit gives Sweden and Finland an opportunity to share our views on the situation in our neighbourhood, our close bilateral cooperation and security developments more broadly,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde, who will host the visit to Sweden.

“The security situation in our part of Europe has deteriorated over time. This is why we have shifted from international operations to national defence. Sweden’s defence policy rests on two pillars: increased national military

capabilities and deepened military cooperation with other countries and organisations. Our cooperation with Finland and Sweden's and Finland's partnership with NATO contribute to stability, predictability and increased security," says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

The programme also includes meetings with HM The King, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, the Riksdag, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Home Affairs. The Delegation will also visit SWENEX – the Swedish naval exercise, which Finland is participating in and is an example of the enhanced cooperation between Sweden and Finland. Finnish Minister of Defence Antti Kaikkonen will take part in this segment of the programme.

A number of media activities will take place in connection with the visit. A press invitation to these activities will be issued on Monday 25 October.

Published 20 October 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

The defence ministers of Denmark, Norway and Sweden sign a trilateral Statement of Intent on enhanced operational cooperation

A serious security crisis in the Nordic region would affect us all, and we need to be prepared and equipped to act together in peace, crisis and conflict. Coordination of national operational planning will improve our ability to act together if so decided.

All Nordic countries and surrounding areas are strategically connected and of considerable importance to transatlantic security.

These geostrategic realities result in the need for enhanced Nordic defence cooperation. The trilateral Statement of Intent (SOI) that we sign today focuses on geographical areas of common concern, such as southern parts of Scandinavia, including Kattegat, Skagerrak and the North Sea.

The SOI will help improve interoperability among our armed forces and enable common military action if decided. This may include protection of sea lines of communication and air and sea surveillance, which are important for security of supply in our region.

The SOI is also in line with the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEF) vision for 2025. The guiding aim of the vision is to improve the Nordic countries' defence capability and cooperation in peace, crisis and conflict.

We believe in the strength of Nordic defence cooperation. We must continue to stand together and build peace and stability in our region. This trilateral statement of intent will be an important tool in fulfilling our ambitions of

strengthening our common security.

Trine Bramsen
Minister of Defence, Denmark

Frank Bakke-Jensen
Minister of Defence, Norway

Peter Hultqvist
Minister for Defence, Sweden

Published 24 September 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Press briefing at EI2 ministerial meeting on Friday 24 September at 15.00 at Karlberg Castle, Stockholm

Swedish Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and French Minister of Defence Florence Parly and ministers or delegations leaders from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and Italy will hold a press briefing at Karlberg Castle, Stockholm, on Friday 24 September at 15.00.

Karlbergs Castle, Stockholm

The press briefing will take place at the margins of the Annual Minister's Meeting of European Intervention Initiative (EI2), a multilateral defence cooperation body with thirteen member countries.

Ministers Parly and Hultqvist will make short introductory remarks on the EI2 meeting and the issues discussed and will then take a few questions. Ministers of delegation leaders from the EI2-member countries will also participate in the press briefing and are available for one-on-ones.

Time: Friday 24 September 2021 15.00 – 15.30 Central European Summer Time (CEST).

Venue: Outside in the courtyard, Karlberg Castle, Stockholm. Entrance for members of the media via the gate on the back side of the castle. Closest address: Karlbergs slottsväg.

Weather forecast: 8 degrees, cloudy. (The press conference will take place outside.)

Language: English

Registration: The registration deadline has passed.

Published 21 September 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden's new Government

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg

Published 09 July 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Acting Secretary of the U.S. Air Force and The Nordic Ministers of Defence sign Letter of Intent on Nordic-US joint exercise 'Arctic Challenge' (ACE)

The Acting Secretary of the U.S. Air Force and the Ministers of Defence of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden signed a Letter of Intent on 17th February, 2021, stating political support to the continued Nordic-US engagement in the Nordic-led flag-level air exercise, Arctic Challenge Exercise (ACE).

U.S. valuable contributions are key to uphold the high-level quality of the exercise. Together with the engagement of the Nordic countries and important European contributions, the aim is to maintain ACE as one of Europe's largest air exercises.

The signing of the Letter of Intent is a significant signal of the strong Nordic-Transatlantic cooperation and highlights the continued political and military importance of US presence in Northern Europe.

Published 18 February 2021



Substantial investment in total defence

In the government bill ‘Totalförsvaret 2021–2025’ (Total Defence 2021–2025), the Government is proposing a substantial increase of capabilities in both military and civilian defence. The bill includes proposals on a new and expanded war organisation with reinforcements in all branches and functions of defence, as well as the re-establishment of five regiments and one air wing. The bill also includes substantial investment in military equipment, reinforcements of cyber defence, ammunition and foreign intelligence capabilities, and a doubling of basic-training volumes. Within the civilian defence, resilience is strengthened in several important societal functions.

The Government’s proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

“This represents the largest increase in the level of ambition in defence capabilities in 70 years. The bill is based on the defence commissions proposal for both the civilian and military defence. It is a signal to the Swedish people and our neighbourhood that we are taking the security situation extremely seriously,” says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

During the period 2021–2025, the level of funding to the Armed Forces will have increased by SEK 27.5 billion, compared with 2020. In total, SEK 79 billion will be allocated to military defence during the period. The decisions that have been made and proposed by the Government during the period 2014–2020, will mean that the military defence will have increased its funding by 85 per cent in fixed prices between 2014 and 2025. In 2023, the

Government will implement a control station to evaluate the implementation of the Defence Bill to ensure that the reinforcement and cost development is in phase according to the Riksdag's decision on direction and financial framework.

The investments mean that total defence capabilities continue to be strengthened and that total defence is being shaped and dimensioned to address an armed attack against Sweden, including acts of war in Swedish territory.

“The proposals in the bill should be seen against the background of the deteriorating security situation in Sweden’s neighbourhood and in Europe over time. Sweden will be affected if crisis or an armed conflict arises in our neighbourhood. An armed attack against Sweden cannot be ruled out,” says Mr Hultqvist.

Strengthening of the war organisation and expansion of the peacetime organisation

Within military defence, the endurance of the war organisation is strengthened and better balance is created between the active service and its’ support units. The government also proposes that a new and expanded war organisation should be established from 2021, and successively filled with personnel throughout the 2020s.

Reinforcements are to take place within all branches and functions of defence. In addition, cyber defence and foreign intelligence capabilities are also being strengthened. Substantial investments in military equipment are also being carried out.

For geographical, emergency preparedness and training reasons, the Government is proposing, as previously announced, that the Swedish Armed Forces’ organisation should be expanded with the re-establishment with a number of regiments and an air wing.

The organisational units to be re-established are: the Norrland Dragoon Regiment (K 4) in Arvidsjaur; the Älvsborg Amphibious Regiment (Amf 4) in Gothenburg; Uppland Wing (F 16) in Uppsala; the Bergslagen Artillery Regiment (A 9) in Kristinehamn; the Dalarna Regiment (I 13) in Falun; and the Västernorrland Regiment (I 21) in Sollefteå, with a training detachment in Östersund

More recruits for national military service

The total number of positions in the war organisation is expected to increase to approximately 90 000, which can be compared with 60 000 positions in 2020. This means that the number of people undergoing national total defence service basic training will be gradually increased to 8 000 per year until 2025.

Strengthened civilian defence

Civil and military defence reinforce each other. Alongside the increased funding to military defence, a gradual strengthening of civilian defence is also taking place, which will see total funds for civilian defence increasing to SEK 4.2 billion in 2025. Sweden's capabilities to handle a state of heightened alert and, ultimately, war need to be strengthened on a broad front. The resilience of the most important societal functions must be strengthened, particularly the health and medical care system, the supply of food and drinking water, transportation, public order and safety, financial preparedness, energy supply and electronic communications and the postal service. In order to maintain the balance in the total defense, it is important to prioritize civil defence and that civil defence continues to develop.

“The proposals in the bill are key to being able to implement the increase of capabilities in military and civilian defence that the Government considers to be necessary. It is a matter of continuing to be able to assert our sovereignty in an increasingly complex security reality,” says Minister for Defence Hultqvist.

Published 16 October 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Joint Press Release: European Intervention Initiative Annual Ministerial Meeting 25 September 2020

On September 25, 2020, the Ministers of Defence of Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom met via videoconference, in the third annual European Intervention Initiative (EI2) meeting.

At the meeting, hosted by Portugal, the Ministers of Defence assessed the work done during 2020 by the Working Groups, the Military European Strategic Talks (MEST) and the Strategic Dialogue, as well as the results of the Seminar on Resilience and Strategic Anticipation post-COVID, which have given the chance to reflect on how to reinforce resilience in a pandemic context and get ahead of future crisis. The issue of future enlargements of the European Intervention Initiative was also discussed.

Participants shared their views on some of the emerging defence and security challenges, including the situation in the Sahel, Belarus, Arctic/High North, the Mediterranean Sea, the growing threat of disinformation and cyber-attacks, maritime security as well as post-COVID defence spending and how to reduce dependency in the logistics supply chains.

In 2021, the EI2 Ministers annual meeting as well as the Strategic Dialogue's meeting will be hosted by Sweden.

EI2 is an independent and flexible forum, aimed at bringing European countries together to prepare themselves better for future crisis by creating a

shared strategic culture. EI2 will not duplicate activities within the EU, NATO, UN, the OSCE or ad hoc coalitions, but will be complementary to them.

Published 28 September 2020



Government decision to increase defence spending

The Swedish government has proposed to parliament that the defence sector should be allocated an additional SEK 5 billion in 2021.

The decision also concludes that the previous decisions of additional SEK 5 billion annually towards defence over the next five years (until 2025) remains in place.

By the end of 2020, the Government will present a defence bill to the parliament. In the upcoming defence bill, the Government intends to propose objectives for the total defence, and revised objectives the military and civilian defence, as well as the development of the Swedish Armed Forces war fighting organisation up to 2030.

Furthermore, it will outline a broad range of issues such as security policy, defence acquisition, research and development, skills supply, military security services, cyber defence and international defence cooperation.

Published 21 September 2020



Peter Hultqvist keynote speaker at Chatham House Security and Defence conference in London and meets British Minister for Defence Procurement Jeremy Quin

Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist meets with Britain's Minister for Defence Procurement Jeremy Quin in London on 11 March. The agenda includes discussing regional security in Northern Europe, the joint Future Combat Air Systems Cooperation (FCASC), the defence cooperation Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) and the upcoming Swedish defence exercise Aurora 20. Peter Hultqvist will also be the keynote speaker at the conference "A New Era of Strategic Competition" at the think tank Chatham House.

Sweden and the UK have a defence policy cooperation in several areas. Common interests include, for example, security in the Baltic Sea region and cooperation in peacekeeping operations. Sweden and the UK also have significant defence material cooperation and signed an agreement in July 2019 on Future Combat Air Systems Cooperation.

During the bilateral meeting in London on March 11, the ministers will discuss several ongoing projects between the countries, including the development of the British-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), which in addition to Sweden also includes Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Norway. JEF is an important element of the

security network in Northern Europe. JEF strengthens the national military capabilities as well as the interoperability between involved nations.

The ministers will also discuss work following the agreement on joint development on the Future Combat Air Systems Cooperation project FCASC signed in July 2019, as well as international operations.

Chatham House

During his visit to London, Peter Hultqvist will also attend a conference at the Chatham House, under the theme "A New Era of Strategic Competition", where the Swedish Minister for Defence will give the opening speech and will participate in a discussion on the European security architecture.

Journalists are welcome to contact press secretary Natalie Sial for enquiries.

Published 10 March 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist to receive Hungary's Minister of Defence Tibor Benkő on 19 February

On Wednesday 19 February, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist will receive Hungary's Minister of Defence Tibor Benkő at Karlberg Palace for a bilateral meeting.

During the meeting, the ministers will discuss regional security, current European defence issues and bilateral defence cooperation between Sweden and Hungary.

Time for the media

In connection with the meeting, there will be an opportunity for the media to put questions to the defence ministers.

Time: 12.00–12.30

Venue: Fortifikationssalen, Karlberg Palace, Stockholm

Please register at the security desk of Karlberg Palace by 11.30. Valid ID is required.

Please send the mandatory notification of attendance to Press Information Officer Josefin Freij.

Published 12 February 2020



Referral to the Council on Legislation on operational military support between Sweden and Finland

The Government decided on 6 February to refer a proposal to the Council on Legislation on operational military support between Sweden and Finland. The legislative proposal aims, among other things, to enable faster decisions on providing and receiving operational military support within the framework of Swedish-Finnish defence cooperation.

This enhanced defence cooperation between Sweden and Finland is intended to strengthen Sweden's and Finland's national defence and the countries' capacity for joint military action. This cooperation covers the planning of joint operations and preparations for the use of civilian and military resources operationally in various scenarios, for example in the event of one of our country's territories being violated or subjected to an armed attack.

The Government's proposed legislation would enable faster decisions on providing and receiving operational military support within the framework of Swedish-Finnish defence cooperation by giving the Government the legal right to make more decisions in this regard than is possible today. It is also proposed that a number of legislative amendments be made to create better conditions for the Finnish military to provide support in Sweden. The proposals referred to the Council on Legislation build on the proposals presented in the report *An act on operational support between Sweden and Finland* (SOU 2018:31).

The date of the proposed legislation's entry into force is 1 August 2020.

Published 07 February 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Press invitation to Nordic defence ministerial meeting on 19–20 November in Stockholm

The Nordic defence ministers will meet on 19–20 November in Stockholm within the framework of Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO). The issues the ministers will discuss include a common platform for dialogue on security and defence policy for more efficient practical defence cooperation.

Karlberg Palace, Stockholm

In connection with the meeting, there will also be a meeting held together with the Baltic defence ministers and a meeting within the defence policy forum Northern Group.

Press conference

The Nordic defence ministers will hold a joint press conference in connection with the meeting.

Separate interviews

There will also be opportunities for separate interviews during the conference. Suggested times are after 17.30 on 19 November and after 13.00 on 20 November.

Requests for separate interviews can be sent to Josefin Freij, who will forward them to the appropriate delegation/press contact.

Published 13 November 2019



Long-term financing of military defence

In the Budget Bill for 2020 the Government proposes that military defence will be allocated an additional five billion SEK for the year 2022. This investment is fully funded through a bank tax. The Budget Bill is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The Government has reached an agreement with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party to increase defence spending by 5 billion kronor in 2022 and that an additional 5 billion kronor will be added to the budget annually up until 2025, in accordance with the Defence Commission's proposals. This funding will have a reasonable distribution profile. The Government intends to propose a Defence Bill to Parliament during autumn 2020.

During the period 2015–2020 additional around SEK 33 billion has been allocated to military defence

Within the limits of the agreement on the defence budget, it is now the aim of the Government to implement the Defence Commission's proposals in the upcoming Defence Bill, which will be presented to Parliament during autumn 2020. While defence spending needs to increase, it is important that the affected agencies continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that resources are used in an effective and rational manner.

There is a broad political consensus regarding the Defence Commission's analysis of the deteriorating security situation as well as the Commission's main proposals regarding the future development of the military defence and the need to strengthen military capabilities.

The Government intends to propose a Defence Bill to Parliament during autumn 2020, which will be based on the Defence Commission's report. The aim is a Defence Bill that can attain the broadest political support possible. A

broad unity behind Sweden's security and defence policy is a strength as it sends both an important security policy signal and gives an important indication of stable development to the people of Sweden.

Published 18 September 2019



Sweden and United Kingdom sign agreement on development of future combat aircraft capabilities

On 18 July, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Defence Penny Mordaunt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in London agreeing to examine the possibilities for joint development of future combat aircraft capabilities and combat aircraft systems.

The MoU is the starting point for the countries to analyse the conditions for deeper cooperation on the development of future combat aircraft capabilities, including future development of the JAS 39 Gripen.

The MoU does not entail long-term commitments between the countries, but is intended to enable future positions. Nor does it prevent the countries from engaging in similar studies and analyses with other partners.

The agreement will be effective for ten years, which is deemed sufficient to carry out the above activities. If and when Sweden decides to fully initiate a bilateral development and procurement project, additional, more detailed agreements will need to be signed. Sweden's current combat aircraft system, the JAS 39 Gripen, will be the backbone of Swedish combat aircraft capabilities for the foreseeable future. This collaboration offers the opportunity to further insert advanced technologies into JAS 39 Gripen.



Government Offices of Sweden

Peter Hultqvist received Defence Commission's final report

On 14 May, the chair of the Defence Commission, Björn von Sydow, submitted his final report to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

“The Defence Commission has undertaken a thorough analysis of huge importance for Sweden’s defence and security policy. The Commission has completed its task well and managed to incorporate the supplementary instructions on greater order in defence finances into the final report.”

“The Commission’s work and conclusions will now be the starting point for the Government’s future work. The next step for the Government is to task the Swedish Armed Forces and the Defence Materiel Administration with analysing the economic implications and feasibility of the Defence Commission’s proposals. The Government plans to present a defence policy bill for the period 2021–2025 to the Riksdag in 2020,” said Mr Hultqvist at the presentation of the report.

The cross-party Commission has been working since January 2017 to analyse international developments and the associated implications for Sweden’s defence and security policy.

Published 14 May 2019



Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist to host Nordic defence ministerial meeting on Gotland

The Nordic defence ministers will gather on Gotland on 9–10 April in the framework of the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO). The agenda for the meeting includes total defence issues, regional security and the follow-up of the vision for Nordic defence cooperation amongst other. In conjunction to the meeting Finland, Norway and Sweden will sign an annex concerning security of supply, which constitutes a part of a wider Nordic defence materiel cooperation agreement. At the same time, Denmark will declare its intent to sign the annex.

Sweden holds the Chairmanship of NORDEFECO in 2019 and will host two defence ministerial meetings during the year. Denmark's Minister of Defence Claus Hjort Frederiksen, Norway's Minister of Defence Frank Bakke-Jensen, Permanent Secretary at Finland's Ministry of Defence Jukka Juusti and Director General of the Defence Directorate at Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs Arnór Sigurjónsson will attend the meeting on Gotland.

During the meeting, the representatives of the Nordic countries will discuss issues partly highlighted in the Swedish chairmanship priorities for the year, including:

- experiences and opportunities concerning cooperation in the total defence area;
- the development of NORDEFECO as a platform for crisis consultations between the countries;
- cooperation in the defence materiel area;

- military exercises; and
- deepened Nordic-transatlantic cooperation.
- the development of Arctic Challenge Exercise into a European high-quality flag level exercise

The Nordic countries are facing similar security policy challenges and strive for close, effective and cost-efficient defence cooperation. The objective is to strengthen each country's national defence and their capability to act together. The vision for Nordic defence cooperation, adopted in November 2018, states that Nordic defence cooperation should cover activities in peacetime, as well as cooperation in potential crisis and conflict situations. A step is the development of a mechanism and guidelines for consultations between the Nordic countries in the event of a potential crisis or conflict. One ambition in this regard is that Nordic defence cooperation through NORDEFECO should be a platform to strengthen the security in the Nordic region.

As part of the meeting, the Nordic defence ministers will visit the Gotland Regiment (P 18), where total defence issues will be the focus of the discussions. The Gotland County Administrative Board and the Swedish Armed Forces will update the ministers on the ongoing work with developing the total defence system on Gotland.

Questions from the media

At 11.30–12.00 on 10 April, there will be an opportunity for journalists to ask the ministers questions about Nordic defence cooperation.

Please register via email to Press Officer Josefin Freij.

Published 05 April 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and India's Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman to sign security protection agreement

During a ceremony in Stockholm, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and India's Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman will sign a security protection agreement between Sweden and India.

Bella, entrance via security at Rödbogatan 6

A short press briefing will be held in connection with the ceremony. The signing will take place at 16.15 and there will be a photo opportunity. The press briefing will begin at 16.30.

If you have any questions, please contact Press Secretary Toni Eriksson. To register for the press briefing, please contact Press Officer Josefin Freij.

Published 11 February 2019



Government Offices of Sweden

The ministers' press contacts

Here are the contact details for the ministers' press secretaries.

Prime Minister's Office

Press secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Ingela Nilsson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 551 41 16

Jonatan Holst

Mobile telephone: +46 72 227 85 35

Press Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren

Dan Lundqvist Dahlin

Mobile telephone: +46 72 553 66 29

Ministry of Employment

Press Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson

Natalie Sial

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

Press Secretary to Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen

Martin Kling

Mobile telephone: +46 70 539 57 29

Ministry of Finance

Press Secretary to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson

Gösta Brunnander

Mobile telephone: +46 72 544 28 66

Press Secretary to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund

Hanna Hessling

Mobile telephone: +46 72 557 38 01

Press Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi

Matilda Malmqvist Glas

Mobile telephone: +46 70 367 03 64

Ministry of Defence

Press Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist

Maja Zachrisson

Mobile telephone: +46 70 219 81 64

Ministry of Infrastructure

**Press Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure
Tomas Eneroth**

Karin Röding Boman

Mobile telephone: +46 76 116 65 62

Press Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman

Fredrik Persson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 454 55 09

Ministry of Justice

Press Secretary to Minister for Justice Morgan Johansson

Sofie Rudh

Mobile telephone: +46 72 545 74 21

Press Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg

Miriam Abu Eid

Mobile telephone: +46 72 216 95 65

Ministry of Culture

**Press Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport,
Amanda Lind**

Anna Söderström

Mobile telephone: +46 72 532 17 13

Ministry of the Environment

**Press secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister,
Isabella Lövin**

Jakob Lundgren

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 08 92

Kristoffer Talltorp

Mobile telephone: +46 72 542 80 32

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Press Secretary to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan

Sami Mashial

Mobile telephone: +46 76 144 17 03

Press Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson

Maria Soläng

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 19 47

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren

Jens Petersen

Mobile telephone: +46 70 293 69 35

Press Secretary to Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll

Victor Harju

Mobile telephone: +46 72 504 36 70

Ministry of Education and Research

Press secretaries to Minister for Education Anna Ekström

Natalie Sial

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

Tora Heckscher

Mobile telephone: +46 72 233 84 39

Press Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans

Daniel Ferreira

Mobile telephone: +46 76 135 56 92

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström

Isabel Lundin

Mobile telephone: +46 76 296 46 38

Press Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson

Hanna Hessling

Mobile telephone: +46 72 55 738 07

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde

Joanna Abrahamsson

Mobile telephone: +46 72 543 84 89

Published 22 January 2019



New state secretaries at the Government Offices

The Government today appointed 31 state secretaries at the Government Offices. Former state secretaries have been dismissed from their positions. Most of the state secretaries have previously held corresponding positions at the Government Offices.

Prime Minister's Office

The Government has appointed Nils Vikmång as the Prime Minister's State Secretary. The Government has also appointed Madeleine Harby Samuelsson and Karin Wallensteen as state secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Government has appointed Paula Carvalho Olovsson as State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The Government has appointed Mats Andersson and Maria Ferm as state secretaries in the coordinating committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministry of Employment

The Government has appointed Annika Dahl as State Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen.

Ministry of Finance

The Government has appointed Max Elger and Leif Jacobsson as state secretaries to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson.

The Government has appointed Ulf Holm and Elin Olsson as state secretaries

to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund.

The Government has appointed Alejandro Firpo as State Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi.

Ministry of Defence

The Government has appointed Jan-Olof Lind as State Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Ministry of Infrastructure

The Government has appointed Mattias Landgren as State Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

The Government has appointed Sebastian De Toro as State Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman.

Ministry of Justice

The Government has appointed Catharina Espmark and Lars Westbratt as state secretaries to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Government has appointed Elisabeth Backteman as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Ministry of Culture

The Government has appointed Helene Öberg as State Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind.

Ministry of the Environment

The Government has appointed Eva Svedling and Gunvor Ericson as state secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin.

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government has appointed Stina Billinger and Emil Högberg as state secretaries to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The Government has appointed Per Callenberg as State Secretary to Minister

for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Government has appointed Maja Fjaestad as State Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

Ministry of Education and Research

The Government has appointed Erik Nilsson as State Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government has appointed Malin Cederfeldt Östberg as State Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed Annika Söder as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Government has appointed Per Olsson Fridh as State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government has appointed Niklas Johansson as State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.

Published 22 January 2019



Sweden and Finland signed a memorandum of understanding

During a ceremony in Turku, on 9 July, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and Finnish Minister of Defence Jussi Niinistö signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the Swedish-Finnish Defence Cooperation. The agreement provides common political guidance for the defence cooperation.

The Memorandum of Understanding sets out a number of areas of cooperation, for example defence and security policy dialogue; training, exercises and education in addition to territorial surveillance and protection of territorial integrity. Further mentioned is access to each other's territory for military forces of the participants, host nation support as well as prerequisites for combined joint military action and operations, including operational and tactical planning and interoperability.

– The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to create continuity, predictability and a long-term perspective for the defence cooperation between Sweden and Finland. This clarifies a common political guidance for the defence cooperation, said Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Published 09 July 2018



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden joins the German-led Framework Nations Concept (FNC)

On June 28, the Swedish government tasked the Swedish Armed Forces to take part in the German-led Framework Nations Concept.

The German-led Framework Nations Concept consists of around 20 partner nations and covers a wide area of defence cooperation in different areas such as medical, CBRN, CIMIC, logistics etc.

The goal of the Framework Nation Concept is to develop European capabilities. Participation in the FNC provides good opportunities to cooperate in a wide range of capability areas.

- The bilateral defence cooperation between Sweden and Germany has deepened over the last three years. Our participation in the FNC provides additional opportunities to further complement our bilateral as well as multilateral defence cooperation, says the Swedish Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Published 28 June 2018



Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist signs JEF agreement in London

Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist visited London on 27-28 June. Together with his colleagues within the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) Minister Hultqvist signed a memorandum of understanding through which JEF reaches full operational capability.

JEF comprises Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Minister Hultqvist participated in a meeting with all JEF defence ministers. At the meeting, the defence ministers discussed the future vision of JEF, with the agreed view that JEF is an important building block of the security policy cooperation in northern Europe.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding means that JEF reaches full operative capability. JEF can be used for missions led by the UN, the EU and NATO, among others. Participating nations decide independently, in each particular case, and in accordance with national procedures, whether to participate in exercises or operations.

During the visit in London Minister Hultqvist held bilateral talks with his UK colleague Gavin Williamson, at which the ministers discussed the development of the bilateral programme of activities. In addition, Peter Hultqvist met minister for defence procurement and innovation Guto Bebb and a number of think tanks.

- This signing is another step forward in the development of JEF. The UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force is an important contribution to the security network in our part of Europe, says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister of Defence Peter Hultqvist signs trilateral Statement of Intent

Minister of Defence Peter Hultqvist met on May 8th 2018 with United States Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Finland's Minister for Defence Jussi Niinistö in Washington to sign a trilateral Statement of Intent (SOI).

Sweden, Finland and the United States of America intend to complement and reinforce the defense relationships by formalizing and enhancing the defense relationship concerning issues such as exercise activities and increased interoperability.

Published 08 May 2018



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister of Defence Peter Hultqvist to visit Washington

Minister of Defence Peter Hultqvist will make a working visit to Washington on 7 to 10 May 2018. He will meet the United States Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Finland's Minister for Defence Jussi Niinistö.

The ministers will sign a trilateral Statement of Intent (SOI). In 2016 Sweden and Finland signed bilateral SOIs with the United States to improve defence relations.

Based on the bilateral Statements of Intent, the USA, Finland and Sweden intend to complement and reinforce the defense relationships by formalizing and enhancing the defense relationship concerning issues such as exercise activities and increased interoperability.

Published 07 May 2018



The Government of Sweden tasks the Armed Forces to support the United Nations with gender competence

On 25 January the Swedish government decided to task the Armed Forces to support the United Nations with gender competence. Sweden is responding to a sought after need within the UN and will thereby continue to be an active partner for gender equality and its development within the UN system.

Sweden will support the UN with gender competence by offering training opportunities at the centre for implementation of gender perspectives in military operations - the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, NCGM. Since 22 February 2013, this centre of Nordic defence cooperation has been tasked with leading the gender area within NATO.

NCGM was established five years ago in part responding to Security Council resolution 1325. Adopted 17 years ago, the resolution aims at including women to a much greater extent in the work for peace and security and to take into consideration the perspectives of both men and women in this work.

Sweden is a strong advocate and has been working hard for increased implementation, understanding, education and competence in the gender field. This is in line with the government's feminist foreign policy and Sweden's work on the already existing Security Council agenda for women, peace and security.

- Gender in military operations is a priority for Sweden. We have unique skills in which NCGM has developed the only certified Gender Advisor

course that exists for military personnel. Increased skills in and understanding of gender issues also increases the operational effects of a military operation, says Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

- Sweden is actively working on the issue of women, peace and security in the EU, the UN and in our cooperation with other countries and organisations, such as NATO. Knowledge and education are important and we contribute to this through the NCGM, says Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Published 25 January 2018



EU's ministers for defence and foreign affairs discussed permanent structured cooperation

On 13 November, EU's ministers for foreign affairs and defence met at the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) in Brussels. At the meeting, Sweden was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström, and the Minister for Defence, Peter Hultqvist.

In conjunction with the meeting, Sweden and the other EU countries that intend to participate in EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (Pesco) signed a joint declaration of intent to the Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The government will soon submit a proposition to gain Riksdag's approval for Sweden to join the cooperation.

The cooperation is to develop the EU's operational capacity for military crisis management tasks, which can also be at the disposal of UN missions, for example. Pesco offers a framework for cooperation on the development of military capabilities but also the potential for tangible security and defence policy projects.

The Permanent Structured Cooperation is a phase in the implementation of EU's global strategy, for which Sweden has been a driving force and places major emphasis. The Union's collective capability to prevent conflicts and manage external crises with various instruments is to increase within the framework of the follow-up.

The government believes that Pesco will fulfil two strategic objectives: to strengthen the joint security and defence policy and to contribute to strengthening European solidarity. The Swedish participation will enable Sweden to better influence EU's joint foreign, security and defence policy. The cooperation is inter-governmental and fully in line with Sweden's

military policy of non-alignment.

At the Council meeting, the ministers of foreign affairs held a separate discussion on the relationship between the EU and Africa, and how the Union's strategic communication is to be strengthened.

In a separate session, EU's ministers for defence also discussed the cooperation that exists between the EU and Nato in order to strengthen European security and international crisis management capability. In conjunction with the meeting, the European Defence Agency (EDA) held a board meeting in a Defence Ministers format.

Published 14 November 2017



Budget 2018: Increased military capabilities and enhanced total defence

In its Budget Bill for 2018, the Government proposes allocating an additional SEK 2.7 billion to Sweden's total defence, of which SEK 2.3 billion for military defence and SEK 0.4 billion for civil defence.

On 16 August, the Government reached an agreement with the Moderate Party and the Centre Party on additional measures to increase the operational capabilities of military units and ensure overall total defence capability. In addition to the investments of SEK 500 million announced in the 2017 Spring Amending Budget, military capabilities and total defence capability will be enhanced with an additional SEK 2.7 billion per year from 2018.

Top priority will be given to measures to ensure implementation of the 2015 Defence Resolution during the period until the end of 2020. Priority will also be given to measures aimed at further enhancing capabilities during the current period and also ensuring that military capabilities and total defence capability can increase after 2020.

In accordance with the defence agreement, the Government proposes allocating an additional SEK 80 million in 2018 to the National Defence Radio Establishment (FRA) and the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MUST) for efforts targeting counter-terrorism, information and cyber security, and security services.

The additional funds will make it possible to:

- increase unit activities and preparedness;
- give priority to measures aimed at ensuring military units with lowest battle readiness in order to increase their capabilities;

- enable army combat forces to take action simultaneously involving two brigades with acceptable capability;
- increase training activities; and
- enhance the capability to simultaneously mobilise the entire war organisation in the event of a heightened alert.

In light of the changing security situation in our region, the Government considers it necessary to have a coordinated military command on Gotland. The Government therefore proposes that a Gotland Regiment, stationed in Visby, be established as of 2018.

Published 20 September 2017



Agreement strengthens the defence by 2.7 billion per year

The government has agreed with the Moderates and the Center Party to further strengthening the Swedish Armed Forces and to ensure the overall capability of the Swedish Total Defence. In addition to previous agreements, the budget of the Swedish Armed Forces and other parts of the Swedish Total Defence will be strengthened by an additional 2.7 billion kronor annually for the years 2018-2020.

The priority is to ensure the implementation of the 2015 Defence Bill for the years 2016 to 2020. In addition, actions to further strengthen the Swedish Defence are prioritized including laying the foundation for further increases of Swedish defence capabilities after 2020.

Compared to previous decisions this agreement will increase the defence economy by a total of SEK 8.1 billion over the next three years. Of these, approximately SEK 1.3 billion is allocated to civilian defence and about 6.8 billion to the military defence.

Published 16 August 2017



Sweden and Finland join UK-led response force

At a signing ceremony held at Karlberg Castle June 30, Swedish Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist together with UK Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon and Minister of Defence of Finland Jussi Niinistö joined the United Kingdom-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF).

JEF is a UK framework for a rapidly deployable force capable of conducting the full spectrum of UN, EU and NATO operations. Participants, besides the UK, are Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Norway. Participation in missions is decided on a case by case basis, after decision by the appropriate competent national authorities.

– The JEF will complement our bilateral and multilateral cooperation focusing both on our close vicinity and a broader global agenda, said Minister for Defence of Sweden Peter Hultqvist.

– In an uncertain world, the UK is spearheading this high-readiness joint force, which will help us tackle growing threats. Together, we pack a more powerful punch. This is a Force of Friends, and alongside Sweden, Finland, and our other partners in this force, we remain committed to security, in Europe and around the world. We are stronger together, and, this joint force clearly shows Britain is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our international allies.

– Both Sweden and the UK are major partners for Finland and joining JEF gives our cooperation yet another dimension. We believe that the cooperation will enhance our national defence capability and deepen cooperation with our partners, said Minister of Defence of Finland Jussi Niinistö.

Representatives from other participating countries were also present at Karlberg Castle. After the ceremony Peter Hultqvist, Michael Fallon and

Jussi Niinistö will attend the seminar – The Security Situation in Northern Europe, arranged by Folk och Försvar and Finlandsinstitutet.

Published 30 June 2017



Sweden and Germany sign Letter of Intent in area of defence

In conjunction to the Nato-meeting June 29, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and his German counterpart Minister of Defence Dr. Ursula von der Leyen signed a Letter of Intent (LoI), deepening the co-operation between the Swedish and German Armed Forces and other Defence Agencies.

The aim of the LoI is to deepen and increase co-operation between the Swedish and German Armed Forces and other Defence Agencies by building on current co-operative activities, and implementing new initiatives to work together effectively and efficiently.

- Germany is an important actor in the Baltic Sea Region and a partner that we share values and many central interests with. Consequently, German-Swedish defence co-operation promotes stability in the Baltic Sea region and in Europe as a whole, said Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

The Letter of Intent comprises for example exercises, armament and multinational operations, and include land, sea and air forces. Explicit examples are, promoting naval exercises and mine countermeasures in the Baltic Sea. The Letter of Intent also sets out to deepen the dialogue on defence policy, particularly concerning the Baltic Sea Region.



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden joins United Kingdom-led expeditionary force

The Swedish government decided on June 22 to join the United Kingdom-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF). Present participants are Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Norway.

JEF is a UK framework for a rapidly deployable force capable of conducting the full spectrum of operations. Participants, besides the United Kingdom, are Estonia, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Norway. The United Kingdom has invited Sweden to join. The decision has been coordinated with Finland.

Published 22 June 2017



Government Offices of Sweden

Prime Minister to receive Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka – press conference and photo opportunity

On 3–4 November, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Bohuslav Sobotka will visit Sweden at the invitation of Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. Issues including jobs and growth, the internal market, decent working conditions and migration will be the focus of the talks at Rosenbad. Developing and deepening cooperation between the Czech Republic and Sweden in the EU context, not least in light of Brexit, will also be discussed.

Bella Venezia in Rosenbad, Stockholm

Media programme

11.45 Prime Minister Stefan Löfven receives Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka in the entrance to Rosenbad.

11.50 Talks begin in the Rosenbad Guest Dining Rooms.

Photo opportunities at the entrance and in the Guest Dining Rooms.

Enter via Kopparporten, Rosenbad, from 11.00. Photographers must be in place by 11.30.

13.00 Press conference in Bella Venezia, Rosenbad.

Enter via Kopparporten, Rosenbad, from 12.15.

The press conference will be held in English and Czech and webcast live on www.regeringen.se.

Please bring your press credentials.

Registration required via email to Nina Kefi, Prime Minister's Office.

Published 28 October 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

Press invitation: French Minister of Defence Jean-Yves Le Drian to visit Sweden on 17 May

In connection with the visit, a press conference will be held the 17th May at 15.00 at Berga Naval Base.

Assembly at the security desk at Berga Naval Base at 14.50.

Published 13 May 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

Nordic ministers of defence discussing regional security challenges on 30–31 of March in Denmark

As chairman of Nordic Defence Cooperation NORDEFECO the Danish Minister of Defence Peter Christensen will meet with his Nordic colleagues from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland on 30-31 of March 2016 at Frederiksberg Palace in Denmark.

This year Denmark holds the chairmanship of NORDEFECO, and therefore the Nordic ministers of defence will all meet to discuss the joint defence cooperation between the countries.

At the ministerial meeting the ministers of defence will discuss:

- The common security challenges in the Baltic Sea Region
- Enhanced military access to each other's territories (air, maritime and land) in peacetime
- Nordic transport capacity contribution to the UN mission in Mali through a Nordic rotation of transport aircraft (C-130)
- Support for Eastern Africa Standby Force in Eastern Africa

The media is hereby invited to cover the ministerial meeting on 31 march 11.00–11.30 – both with time for pictures and interviews with the different ministers.

For further questions and participation please contact press secretary Andreas Reckeweg Godfrey on arg@fmn.dk or +45 6187 1934.

Published 29 March 2016



Government Offices of Sweden

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven received President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan in Stockholm

On Friday 4 December, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven received the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, in Stockholm. They met to discuss topics including developments in Afghanistan, Swedish support and the international refugee crisis. A cooperation agreement between the two countries was also signed.

Invitation to press conference

Mr Löfven will receive President Ghani in the entrance to Rosenbad.
Photo opportunity.

Discussions.
Photo pool.

Signing of cooperation agreement.
Photo pool.

Joint press conference with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and President Ashraf Ghani in Bella Venezia Language: English.

The press conference will be webcast live on www.regeringen.se

To editorial offices

Special media accreditation obtained via the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is required to follow the programme. Please apply to the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 18.00 on 2 December.

[Apply for accreditation](#)

The assembly place and time for each programme point will be announced to the media representatives concerned.

Programme points, 4 December

During his visit to Sweden, President Ghani will also hold bilateral talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, and meet Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin. He will also meet Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin, and have a meeting with Crown Princess Victoria at the Royal Palace. He will also undertake a visit to the KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Morning

Visit to the KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Meeting with Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin.

Late morning

Bilateral talks between President Ghani and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

Photo pool.

Afternoon

Bilateral talks between President Ghani and Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Photo pool.

Crown Princess Victoria receives President Ghani at the Royal Palace.

Photo pool.

Mr Löfven receives President Ghani in the entrance to Rosenbad as above.

Published 30 November 2015



Sweden's contribution to the military training mission in northern Iraq

The Government will present a bill to the Riksdag today on continued Swedish participation in the military training mission in northern Iraq. In the bill, the Government proposes that the Riksdag approve the participation of a Swedish armed force consisting of 35 persons in a military training mission within the framework of the coalition against ISIL in northern Iraq in 2016. The Swedish force is to help train the Iraqi armed forces so as to strengthen their capability to withstand ISIL's advances.

The planned Swedish military contribution should be seen as part of Sweden's broad support to Iraq, which also includes development cooperation and extensive humanitarian support to those affected by ISIL. The contribution is an expression of Sweden's intention to step up and take responsibility to meet the serious threat that ISIL represents today. Sweden also supports the coalition's civilian stabilisation efforts in areas liberated from ISIL.

The basis in international law is comprised of Iraq's request to the international community to provide assistance in fighting ISIL and the bilateral agreements that Iraq enters into with the states that contribute to the mission.

The decision also specifies that the Swedish force can, if necessary, be reinforced by up to 85 persons (for evacuation and reinforcement operations).

Published 05 November 2015



Continued Swedish presence in Afghanistan

The Government will present a bill to the Riksdag today on continued Swedish participation in NATO's Resolute Support Mission (RSM), which provides training, advice and assistance in Afghanistan. Together with the 40 or so other troop-contributing countries, Sweden is taking part in the NATO-led mission at the request of the Afghan government. At present, the Resolute Support mission consists of just over 13 000 personnel.

The Government expects that the Swedish military contribution of no more than 50 persons on the ground in Afghanistan will continue until the end of December 2016, with focus remaining on northern Afghanistan. The Afghan security forces have been responsible for maintaining security in the country since summer 2014. The Resolute Support mission is a step in the gradual phasing out of an international military presence in the country. However, the last year has seen an increased level of violence, with the Taliban expanding their attacks against the Afghan government. Consequently, the Afghan government has requested continued support at current levels, which NATO is expected to offer in 2016. The mission is a non-combat mission aimed at providing continued training and advice to the Afghan security forces and relevant institutions in Afghanistan to help continue to build and develop society.

The bill also describes the extensive civilian involvement that Sweden has with Afghanistan, particularly in the area of development cooperation. Sweden has announced long-term support with a total indicative volume range of SEK 8–8.5 billion for the period 2015–2024 within the framework of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) of July 2012. The TMAF affirms the mutual commitments of the international community and the Afghan government regarding development cooperation in Afghanistan.

Published 05 November 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Press invitation: Nordic Defence Ministers' meeting in Stockholm November 10-11

Sweden holds the presidency of the Nordic defence cooperation Nordefco. Sweden's Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist is the hosts when the Nordic defence ministers meet on the 10th of November in Stockholm. The meeting will also be attended by Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Tuesday the 10th of November starts with a Nordic defence minister meeting. Participating at the meeting are Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, Finnish Minister for Defence Jussi Niinistö and the Norwegian Minister for Defence Ine Eriksen Søreide. There will also be representatives from Iceland and Denmark attending the meeting.

Date and time for the press brief: Tuesday the 10th of November at 14.00

Place: Hotel J, Nacka Strand, Augustendalsvägen 36, Stockholm

Time for media: Gathering with security control from 13.30

Registration: Dennis Abrahamsson, tel +46 8-405 25 30, +46 70-548 51 74. E-mail: dennis.abrahamsson@regeringskansliet.se. Send your registration before the 6th of November. **Please bring a valid press id.**

The Nordefco meeting will after the press brief continue with a Nordic-Baltic Defence Ministers' meeting. The Lithuanian Defence Minister Juozas OLEKAS, Estonia's Defence Minister Hannes Hanso, and Parliamentary Secretary Andrejs Pantelejevs from Latvia will join the meeting.

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg is invited to participate in the Nordic and the Nordic-Baltic Defence Minister meetings. The Secretary

General will also have a bilateral meeting with Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist.

The meeting will continue on the 11th of November with a meeting with the Northern Group. The Nordic and Baltic representatives are then joined by Britain's Secretary of State for Defence Michael Fallon, Director International Affairs and Operations David Van Weel from the Netherlands and Ministries of Defence representatives from Germany and Poland.

Published 04 November 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to attend Nordic Council in Reykjavik on 27–28 October

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will be in Reykjavik on 27–28 October for the annual session of the Nordic Council. His schedule includes meetings with the Nordic prime ministers, the Nordic Council Presidium and the three self-governing territories of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland. Subjects including migration, climate, the environment and Syria will be on the agenda.

On Tuesday 27 October, the Prime Minister will take part in the award ceremony for the Nordic Council prizes.

While in Reykjavik, Mr Löfven will also attend a meeting of the Nordic and Baltic prime ministers, focusing on security policy cooperation in our neighbourhood.

In connection to the Nordic Council session, the Nordic–Baltic heads of government will also meet the Prime Minister of the UK within the Northern Future Forum.

Attending alongside Mr Löfven will be Minister for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation Kristina Persson, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson, Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke and Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin. For details of the respective programmes, please contact the relevant press secretaries.

Press briefings

Wednesday 28 October

11.15–11.45 Press conference with the Nordic prime ministers.

Venue: Harpa – Kaldalón

14.00–14.30 Press conference with the Nordic and Baltic prime ministers.

Venue: Harpa – Kaldalón

Published 27 October 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Government appointed new Supreme Commander

The Swedish Government has appointed Major General Micael Bydén to the rank of General and to the Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces. Supreme Commander Sverker Göranson will relinquish his command to Micael Bydén on October 1st, 2015.

Micael Bydén, born in 1964, has a fighter pilot background with an extensive background within the Swedish Armed Forces. He has served in Afghanistan and as the Swedish Air Attaché in Washington D.C. Since 2012, Micael Bydén has served as the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Published 11 September 2015



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden to Join NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Sweden is set to join the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence as a Contributing Participant. This cooperation format at the knowledge hub is open for non-NATO nations.

- Sweden joining the Centre as a Contributing Participant will enhance cyber security cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. Swedish technical experts have already contributed remarkably to the world's largest live-fire international cyber defence exercise Locked Shields that the Centre organizes, noted Colonel Artur Suzik, Director of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. He highlighted the importance of such cooperation as cyber security is a global issue that does not stop at NATO borders.

- We recognise the successful work of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, particularly its role as a training facility as well as its important contributions to the ongoing discussion on international and legal issues, said State Secretary Jan Salestrand of Swedish Ministry of Defence. Through closer cooperation with the Centre, Sweden wishes to contribute to the regional development of cyber defence and international cyber security. Salestrand emphasised that the recently adopted Swedish Defence Bill states that Sweden should strengthen its cyber defence capabilities and that international cooperation is vital to this end.

It is essential to involve as many nations with advanced cyber defence expertise as possible in the work of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, noted Mikko Marran, the Permanent Secretary of the Estonian Ministry of Defence.

- Coping with the cyber world that is not hindered by physical borders requires international cooperation and the Centre embodies that. It already

is one of the largest NATO Centres of Excellence in terms of number of nations involved, Marran said. He added that Sweden adds value to the Centre's synthesis of cyber security knowledge.

The Tallinn-based NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence is a NATO-accredited knowledge hub focused on interdisciplinary applied research and development as well as consultations, trainings and exercises in the field of cyber security. The Centre's mission is to enhance capability, cooperation and information-sharing between NATO, Allies and Partners in cyber defence. The Centre is staffed and financed by sponsoring nations and contributing participants. Membership of the Centre is open to all Allies. Currently, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States have signed on as Sponsoring Nations. Austria has joined the Centre as a Contributing Participant, the status for non-NATO members of the NATO CCDCOE.

Published 02 July 2015



Enhanced military cooperation between Denmark and Sweden – 27 May 2015

Enhanced military cooperation

At today's meeting in Copenhagen the Swedish and Danish ministers of defence, Peter Hultqvist and Nicolai Wammen, welcomed a report on enhanced possibilities for Danish-Swedish military cooperation.

The report has been prepared by the Danish Armed Forces and Swedish Armed Forces and identifies possible areas of enhanced military cooperation. The goal is to increase operational effect from peacetime maritime and air operations.

The report presents recommendations covering enhanced information sharing in regard to air and maritime surveillance; on secure communications; and on enhanced possibilities for accessing each others countries in peacetime.

The ministers stated:

“We have a long tradition of military cooperation between Denmark and Sweden. The report and its recommendations will undergo further study in the coming period. A pragmatic and determined effort will be made to enhance Danish-Swedish military cooperation in order to achieve increased operational effect and added value to mutual benefit for both countries. We underline the political will and intent to move forward.”

The ministers look forward to meeting again in order to finalise the process. Increased Danish-Swedish military cooperation will supplement already existing Nordic defence cooperation (NORDEFKO) and sea surveillance cooperation in the Baltic Sea (SUCBAS).

Published 27 May 2015



Nordic defence ministers have signed an updated agreement concerning Cooperation in the Defence Materiel Area

The Nordic ministers have signed an updated agreement between the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden concerning Cooperation in the Defence Materiel Area.

The agreement has been updated with an adaptation to the defence directives of the EU (Defence and Security Procurement Directive and the Transfer Directive).

It has also been enhanced in order to make it possible to cooperate in additional areas. The agreement is now more flexible so the various parties can enter into agreements that support cooperation in various configurations.

- It is satisfying that we now have updated the agreement, which is an important milestone. The next step will be to develop an appendix, which includes more detailed contractual regulations, such as procurement, security of supply and export control, says Minister for Defence, and Chairman of Nordefco, Peter Hultqvist.

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Published 10 March 2015