

Forum for Security Studies

– with a Focus on EuroAtlantic Relations

The Swedish Research and Study Group in Security Policy

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Forum for Security Studies

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Forum for Security Studies

Forum for Security Studies at the Swedish National Defence College (SNDC) was launched as a teaching and research centre in 2004. The aim is to provide a Forum, in the true sense of the word, for researchers, experts and policy- or decision-makers in the field and to conduct research on transatlantic security relations, very broadly defined. We focus particularly on relations between the United States and Europe in the security field, and on the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and internal EU security, as well as on civil-military coordination in multinational missions.

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Research projects and other activities connected to Forum for Security Studies

New Transatlantic and European Security Challenges – Consequences for Sweden

The overarching focus of this current research project is an analysis of the security and defence political implications of the continuously evolving transatlantic security-architecture and its consequences. Our aim is to provide research on the rapidly changing world in which Sweden is to pursue its present and future security and defence policies by means of studies on the global, regional and national levels.

On the global level of study we start from the existence of a distinct trend towards an increasing concentration of global security politics to the hands of a decreasing number of powerful actors: the United States, China, and the European Union.

On the regional level of analysis, our research focuses mainly on developments within the European Union and the implications that this has for Sweden and its immediate surroundings and on Sweden's reaction and response to those developments. This includes analyses of the European Union's evolving security and defense policy, its operational capacity as well as the strategic and international context and in which the EU Battlegroups can be expected to be deployed, presently and in the future, as well as the prospective role of European crisis management.

Finally, the national level of analysis concerns the role of Sweden in the EU. Specifically, what are the implications for Sweden's security and defence policies of the developments in the global as well as the regional arena? One area of particular interest here is the role of Sweden in setting up the Nordic Battle Group within the European Union.

Civil-Military Cooperation in Multinational Missions

One of the greatest challenges for modern war science is to remodel imperative arrangements between civilian and military components in multinational missions, designed as operations to bring back failing states to the world community.

In practice, country specific particularities, especially various national patterns of functional interdependences between institutions involved in civil-military cooperation, cause a tendency among actors involved in multinational missions to view an optimal setting of civil-military cooperation in assorted manners. Therefore, our research program is guided by such questions as how national approaches towards civil-military cooperation affect mission quality, how actors' specific particularities and mission requirements affect civil-military cooperation, what type of capabilities and arrangements between civilian and military components are imperative for smooth conduct of multinational missions. Consequently, integral parts of our research program are research symposia "Military Conflicts 1989-2006. Lessons Learned & Unlearned". Ultimately, this research program aims to improve functional and procedural interface between civilian and military components.

From a European Security Community to a Secure European Community

The research programme examines the new broad role that the European Union is playing for security as well as safety. In the last few years the Union has given assistance to those affected by the Asian tsunami, supported U.S. authorities during the Katrina hurricane disaster, coordinated water-carrying aircraft to fight forest fires in Southern Europe and rescue teams in Turkey and Morocco after earthquakes. The EU has also sent military peace keeping missions to Bosnia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, taken measures to prevent the further spread of avian influenza and coordinated member states' efforts in combating terrorism and bringing home thousands of refugees after the war in Lebanon in the of summer 2006. The EU has successfully created a European security community for inter-state peace. The question is whether the Union will now be able to foster a secure European community as well – a homeland defence à la Europe. The purpose of the programme is to analyze the constraints and opportunities for the creation of an EU crisis management capacity in areas ranging from critical infrastructure protection to the European security and defence policy.