

# **Exploring Assymetric Defence Strategies**

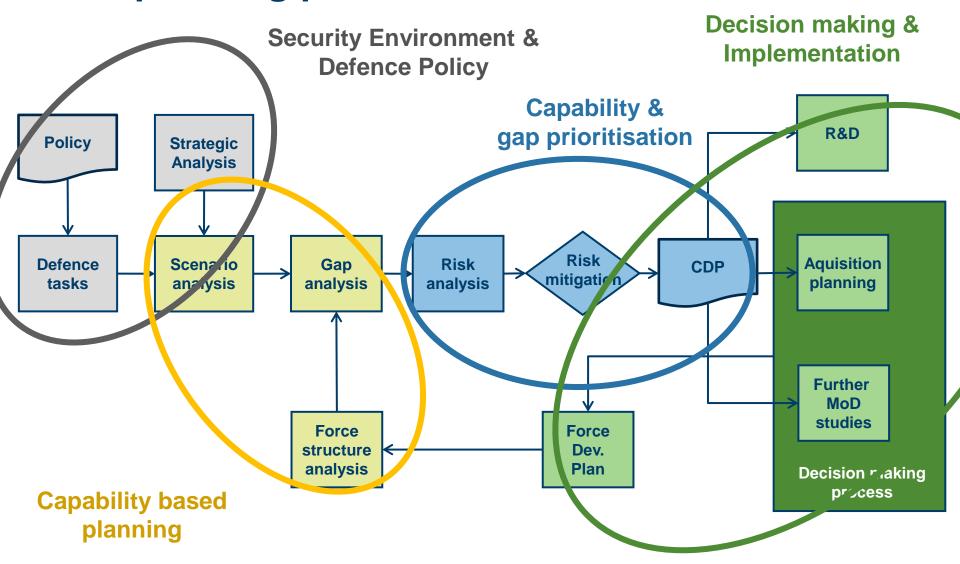
Dr. Sigurd Glærum Norwegian Defence Research Establishment

# **Long Term Defence Planning in Norway**

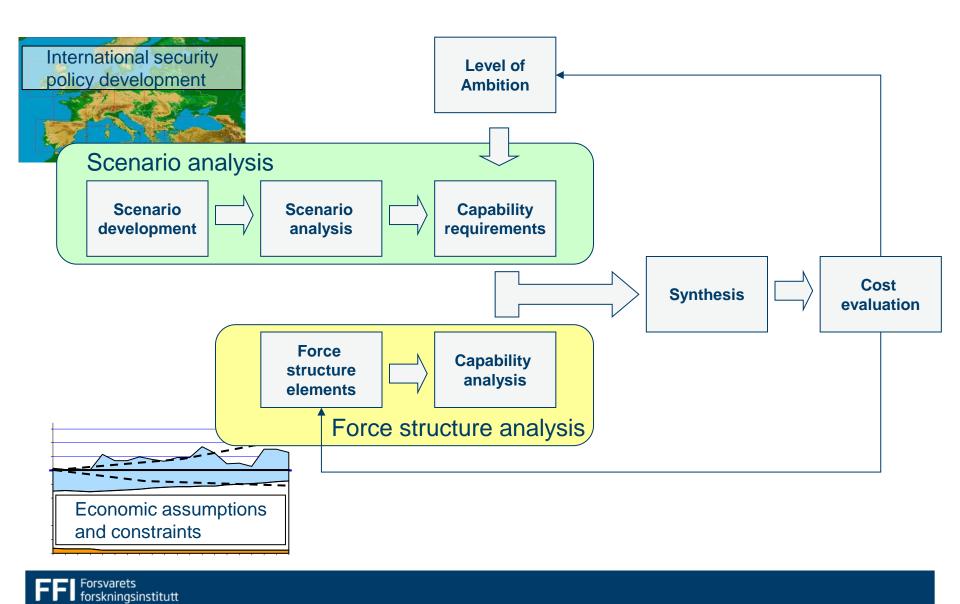
- Continuous defence planning
  - by the MoD
  - modifications to current plans if and when necessary
- White Paper every four years
  - full review of current medium and long term plans
  - preceded and informed by CHOD's defence study
- FFI supports MoD and CHOD
  - threats and challenges
  - capability analysis
  - cost studies
  - concept development



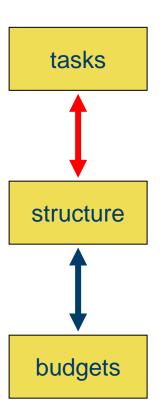
# The planning process



# Capability Based Planning at FFI



# **Capability analysis**



Scenario class	2014	2018	2022	2034
Strategic assault				
Limited attack				
Coercive diplomacy				
Terror attack				
Crime				
Peacetime tasks				

## Something needs to be done

### Strategic environment and constraints:

- Norway is a small(ish) country
- we have a big neighbour
- we are a member of NATO

### The current defence posture is defensive

- stop expansion of enemy forces / denial ops
- involve NATO
- secure allied reinforcements
- engage enemy when possible

### Capability-based planning is a useful tool if a balanced force is achievable

if not, radical alternatives should be explored

### FFI has initiated a "Deterrence Study"

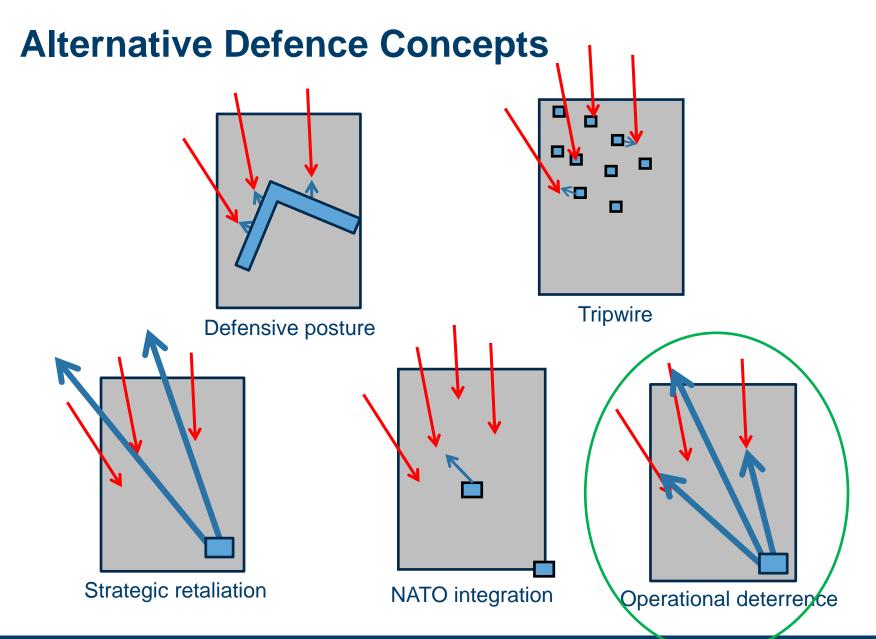
- alternative defence concepts
- asymmetric response to the most demanding scenarios

## How to achieve a defensive threshold?

The aim is to deter a potential aggressor from using military force against Norway by:

- making it so costly to attack us in terms of loss of materiel, personnel, prestige and/or other strategic resources – that the potential gain of attacking is outweighed by the cost, and/or
- 2. ensuring, through own (military, political, diplomatic) effort, that an attack will result in a situation that facilitates Alliance engagement

The assumption is that the initial effort must be – because of compressed timelines and lack of advance warning – handled by national forces



# **Operational Deterrence (A2/AD)**

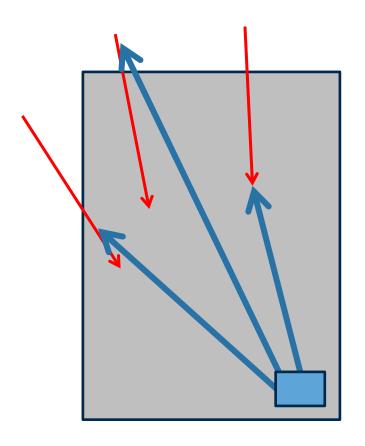
# The main goal of the defensive battle is to incur substantial losses on the attacking forces

- seek out the enemy forces and attack his high value targets
- much less emphasis on defending and holding terrain
- reducing own vulnerabilities by minimising reliance on forward infrastructure and heavy, low-mobility units
- maintain combat intensity over time to ensure Alliance involvement

Realised through offensive strike capabilities combining stand-off weapons, distributed sensor networks and/or platforms that can penetrate enemy defences and strike him directly, like submarines, stealth a/c and SOF.

#### **Assessment:**

- potential to realise a coherent concept within given economic constraints (not full-spectrum, scalable)
- dependent on potentially vulnerable comms networks
- dependent on high volume of stand-off PGMs (cost?)



## **Development of the concept**

### Definition of a draft force structure

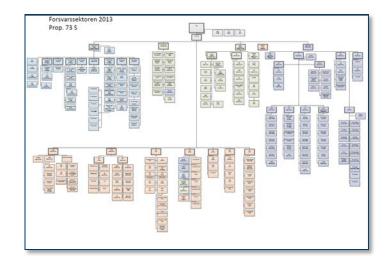
- offensive firepower
- defensive capabilities as required
- unbalanced
- (unrealistic)

### War gaming / table tops

- defined a number of offensive and defensive tactical vignettes
- invited experts / technologists from all divisions at FFI
- explore new technologies / tactical concepts
- testing the force structure

#### **Critical areas:**

- robust communications
- ISTAR
- munitions







## Results and further work

### The study has contributed to the defence debate

- within the armed forces / MoD and in the public domain
- contributed to a strategic discussion

### The study is on-going

- further refinement of the force structure
- bring in external expertise
- define support structure
- cost analysis

## **Conclusions**

- Advantages of a structured approach to long-term planning:
  - focus on capabilities
  - clear audit trail
  - repeatable
  - highlighting problem areas in advance
  - identify strategic trade-offs
- Focus should be on achieving balance between tasks, budgets and force structure
- But also important to allow a many-dimensional approach to defence planning
  - encourage creativity
  - challenge existing concepts

