

28 September 2011

**DOCUMENT**  
C-M(2011)0069 (NO-OVERVIEW)

## **NATO DEFENCE PLANNING CAPABILITY REVIEW 2010/2011**

### **NORWAY**

### **OVERVIEW**

1. Norway's defence and security policy continues to aim at safeguarding and promoting national and collective security interests through close cooperation with other countries, primarily through NATO but within the overarching framework of the UN. More strategic emphasis has been given to the northern part of the country and adjacent waters, an effort Norway also sees in a broader Alliance perspective. The Long Term Plan 2009-2012 continues to guide the development of Norwegian armed forces; the restructuring of the armed forces called for in this plan is almost complete and the emphasis of the transformation programme has shifted to qualitative improvements of Norwegian defence capabilities and the ability to deploy and sustain a larger proportion of the armed forces. The priority remains on the further development of deployable, high quality and interoperable forces. The national defence planning process and coordination mechanism have been improved and better aligned with the NATO Defence Planning Process.

2. Norway attaches importance to a comprehensive, integrated approach to operations and will also make civilian contributions to stabilisation and reconstruction efforts. National policies do not allow civilian capacities intended for stabilisation and reconstruction efforts to be deployed as part of a military contingent, but individual civilian specialists can accompany military units. Norway makes a clear distinction between military and civil contributions; the Ministry of Defence is responsible for the military part of an operation while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the civilian part. An inter-ministerial body has been established for the coordination of the provision of military and non-military capabilities to NATO operations.

3. Norway has maintained about 10% (some 800 personnel) of its reported land force strength on operations over the last two years (2009-2010). The army has been a constant contributor to NRF rotations, but this will be scaled down significantly due to the priority placed on ISAF contributions. The navy contributed one frigate to EU Operation Atalanta from August 2009 to January 2010 and contributes special warfare teams to ISAF. In addition, it provided one mine countermeasures vessel (MCMV) to NRF 2009/2

and NRF 2010/2. Air force operational commitments in this period consisted of helicopters for medical evacuation operations in ISAF, two in 2009 and one in 2010. The air force has contributed six F-16 combat aircraft to the NATO operation in Libya and is contributing one maritime patrol aircraft to operation Ocean Shield. A role 2 medical treatment facility is deployed in Afghanistan; another medical treatment facility which had been deployed to Chad terminated its mission in May 2010.

4. The land forces continue their transformation to a more deployable and sustainable force and the proportion of land forces which can be deployed and sustained for the full range of Alliance missions is steadily increasing and exceeds NATO usability targets. To some degree, the land forces remain dependent on reserves for deployments abroad; there is some concern with regard to sufficient regular personnel to sustain rotations for a protracted period. The Home Guard remains largely geared for national contingencies and defence on home territory, but it assists the regular army by forming and training volunteer units for deployment. In terms of usability, the land forces strength (excluding the home guard) as reported in the context of the usability exercise was, for 2010: 8,368; deployable personnel 4,246 (50.7 %); sustainable 900 (10.8%). Ongoing and planned modernisation will enhance combat effectiveness of the Norwegian army and improve the ability to engage autonomously in high intensity operations, although a few weaknesses will remain.

5. The substantial modernisation of the Norwegian navy has resulted in the delivery of a significant range of deployable capabilities. In particular, new frigates and their organic helicopters, supported by an afloat logistics capability, will, once fully operational in about four years from now, significantly enhance operational capabilities in a range of naval warfare areas. New fast patrol boats with advanced littoral anti-surface and maritime security operations capabilities will become available for use on expeditionary operations by 2013. Ongoing modernisation of existing submarines and mine countermeasures vessels will also enhance intelligence and force protection capabilities. A few weaknesses will remain, for example in the lack of a long range air defence engagement capability. Precision land attack missile capability will remain vested solely in the air force's F-16s. The peacetime manning of Norwegian navy vessels is sufficient to meet the national level of ambition according to the LTP but unit activation for crisis, war or operations will require a work-up period corresponding to the declared readiness time.

6. The air force has a modern and capable combat aircraft fleet which will be further enhanced by the future acquisition of the F-35; however, currently limited deployable support may hamper Norway's ability to deploy and sustain aerospace assets in some situations. Consequently, Norway has to rely on multinational arrangements to provide some support elements when required; this is seen a positive application of the multinational solutions advocated in NATO's 'Smart Defence' initiative. Norway should continue to exploit the EPAF Expeditionary Air Wing concept to have the arrangements in place that all necessary support can be made available in case of deployment. A wide array of self protection and EW devices for combat and support aircraft is available. Norway does not intend to acquire a national air-to-air refuelling tanker capability or MALE UAVs. To overcome this deficiency, Norway should exploit options to acquire an air-to-air refuelling capability in a multinational context or through bilateral arrangements with other nations. Norway will be ready to consider participation in further multinational efforts in

these and other areas, in the context of the work on Multinational Approaches in NATO and in light of the proposals being developed by the staffs in this regard. Furthermore, Norway is invited to reconsider its decision on the procurement of MALE UAVs, or similar capabilities, in view of the potential of these assets to perform also surveillance tasks in the context of the new emphasis on the High North. In the context of the usability exercise, Norway had, in 2010, 88 airframes (excluding aircraft in deep storage and training, VIP, aerobatic and glider aircraft). Of these, 36 (40.9%) were reported as deployable and nine (10.2%) as sustainable.

7. Norway continues to improve its enabling capabilities. C3 capabilities are adequate and will be further enhanced by the gradual introduction of network enabled capabilities. Norway also has well-advanced cyber defence and information assurance capabilities.

8. Norway is able to collect and provide strategic and operational intelligence, but some deficiencies in situational awareness assets remain at brigade level and above due to the lack of more capable UAVs. Automation of operational intelligence information exchange functions is expected to be achieved through participation in the NATO Multi-sensor Aerospace-Ground Joint ISR Interoperability Coalition programme.

9. Norway has developed a robust strategic lift capability to deploy its forces and capabilities through a combination of military and commercially available assets as well as through multinational arrangements. The introduction of four C-130J aircraft will reduce the current dependence on other nations or commercial services even further.

10. Deployable support elements are primarily optimised to support Norwegian contingents; support for protracted deployments will be provided from a combination of national assets, multinational agreements and contracting. Provisions to enhance the number of medical specialists are in place. Norway continues to utilise multinational solutions and bilateral arrangements to enhance its supporting capabilities, including medical in case of sustained operations.

11. Some shortages in air defence capabilities plus deficiencies in CBRN capabilities will make Norwegian contingents vulnerable in some hostile environments.

12. As a proportion of GDP, Norway's defence expenditure decreased from 1.9% to 1.7% between 2005 and 2009; it is estimated to remain at this level in 2010, below the 2% of GDP as set out in the Political Guidance. Spending on major equipment is estimated to have been 18.1% in 2010 and is forecast to be 20.7% in 2011, compared to the agreed figure of 20%. However, despite the financial crisis and the economic downturn, the financial situation in Norway is healthy compared to most Allies. Norway should therefore be considered to be in a position to fund its defence plans as well as additional NATO requirements which are not yet included in national plans.

13. Defence spending should be increased incrementally in real terms and towards the 2% of GDP as set out in the Political Guidance; extra resources should be used to overcome identified weaknesses including the development of capabilities, such as MALE UAVs to enhance ISTAR capabilities, requested in NATO force goals. Furthermore,

Norway should review its personnel policies and increase the number of personnel that could be deployed, thereby enhancing the ability to rotate and sustain operational units. In addition, there is a need to increase the number of specialists in certain areas, thereby reducing the risk of delays in modernisation projects. In this context, Norway should also consider procuring more off-the-shelf products rather than developing solutions within its own organisation, as a means to reduce the backlog in some modernisation projects caused by the afore mentioned overstretch.

Original: English