

NATO in the ARCTIC

METOC challenges in the High north.



AGENDA

- JFC- Norfolk
- NATO METOC organization
- Arctic and the High North
- eVA Arctic Sentry
- TFX – Arctic
- Milmet Arctic team
- Summary



Joint Force Command Norfolk - JFCNF

- Joint Force Command Norfolk (JFC Norfolk) is NATO's operational headquarters in North America.
- Established in 2019 and located on the largest naval military base, in Norfolk, Virginia.
- The number of personnel in JFCNF is increasing to meet the warfighting requirements of a JFC.
- Swedish contribution approx. 15 officers.
- Infrastructure is also being developed to meet the need.



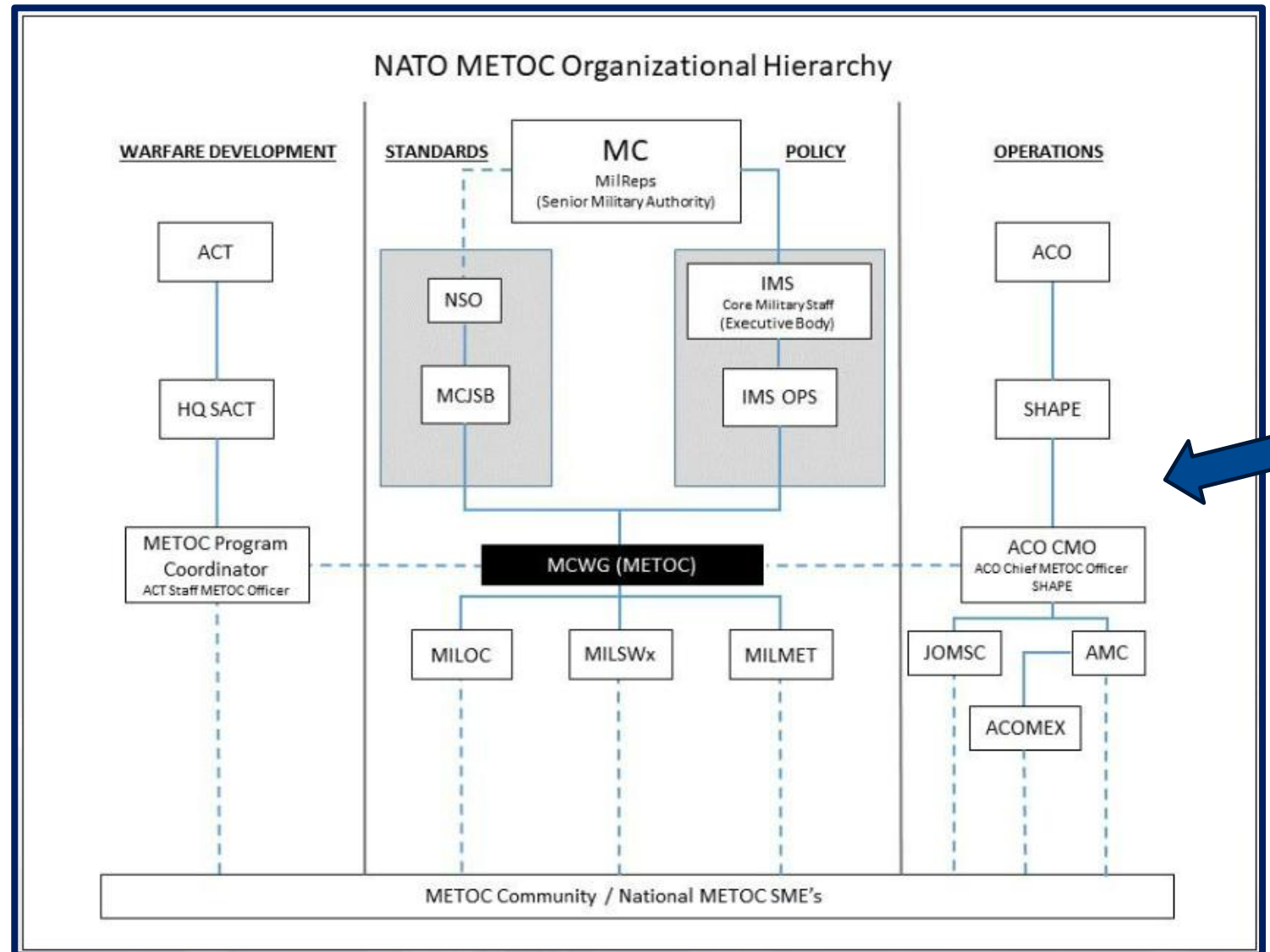
Joint Force Command Norfolk - JFCNF

- The Command reports directly to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and contributes to NATO's enhanced warfighting capabilities.
- The mission of JFC Norfolk includes:
 1. Commanding and controlling operations across the air, sea, land, space, and cyberspace domains,
 2. Protecting the crucial transatlantic bond,
 3. Delivering on NATO's three core tasks of collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security.

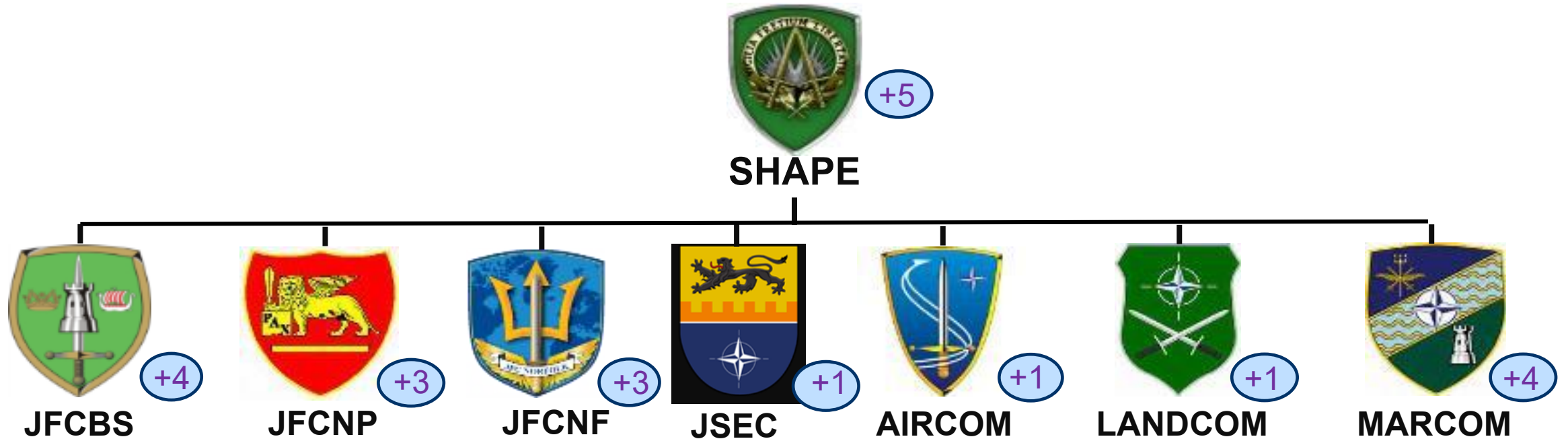


NATO METOC Structure

- NATO METOC Hierarchy
- ACO/ACT
- SHAPE/JFCs/CCs

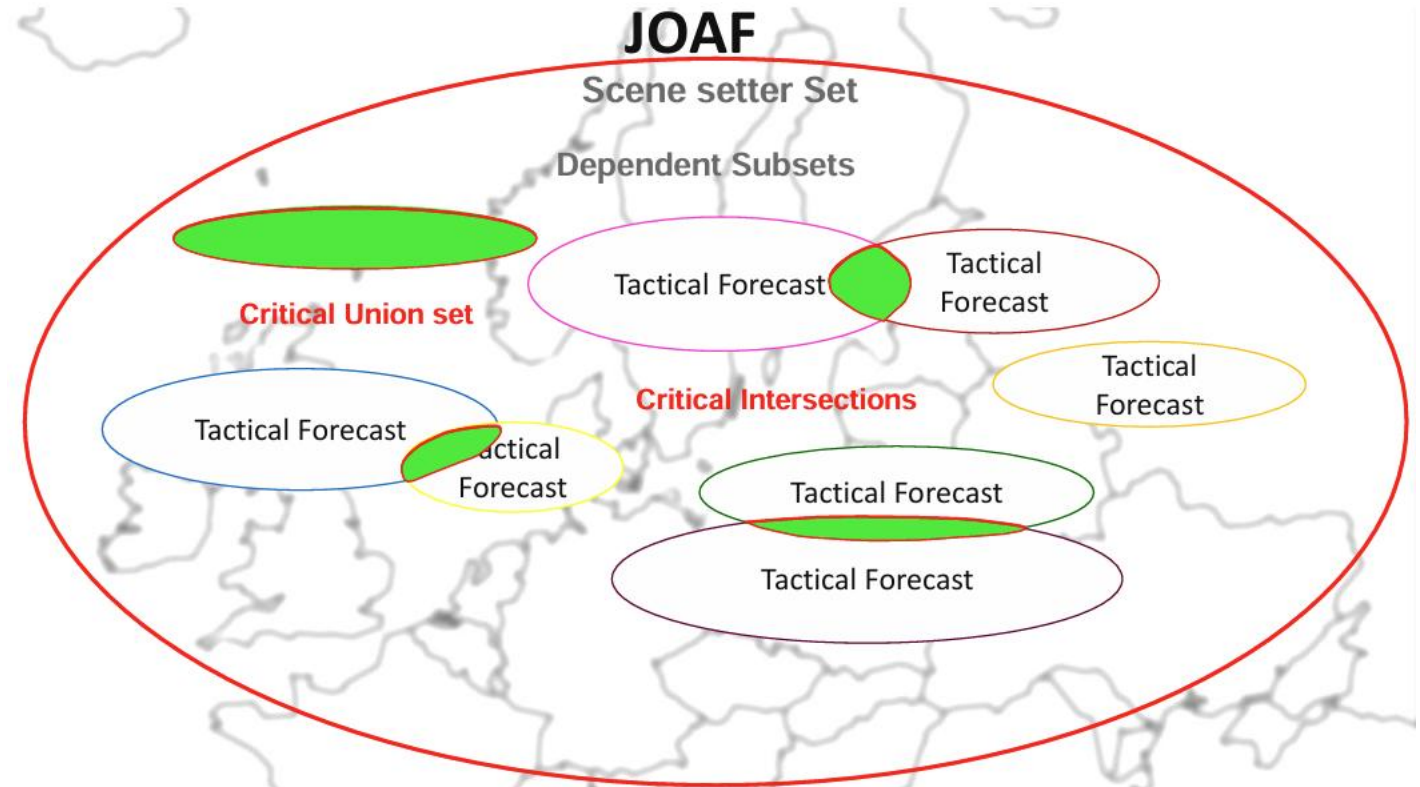


METOC staff in ACO



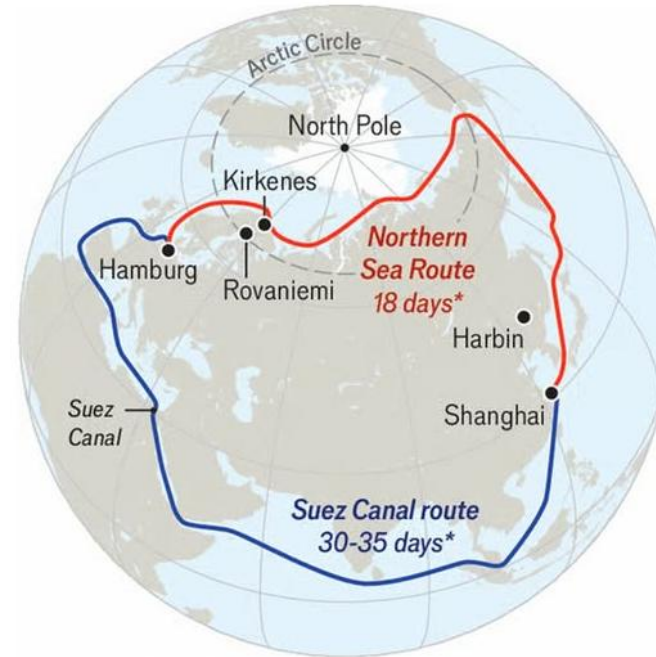
METOC at Operational level

- Commander's METOC requirements.
- Support the HQ (Plans, Intel).
- Not necessarily detailed (tactical) but must be able to answer questions at local level.
- Impacts rather than weather.
- Add the "So What?"



The Arctic and the High North.

- Gateway to the North Atlantic
- Critical trade, transport and communication links
- Environmentally challenging area
- Rapid climate change reshaping the region
- New opportunities for shipping and resources
- Potential for increased tensions



*Approximate, dependent on routing



SACEUR: “Arctic is one of the worlds most strategically significant and challenging areas”

NATO's approach to the Arctic

- **Stability, security and cooperation in the Arctic**
- **Keeping the Arctic and High North an area of low tension**
- **Leveraging Collective strength**
- **Protect NATO territory**
- **Ensure the Arctic and High North remains secure**



Arctic Sentry (eVA)

- **Launched in February 2026, led by JFCNF.**
- **AIM: Enhance deterrence and defence in the Arctic.**
- **Multi-domain Enhanced Vigilance Activity (eVA).**
- **To synchronize efforts and increase presence.**
- **Coherent, overarching operational approach.**



Enhanced presence

NATO has been actively increasing its presence by establishing new structures throughout Allied territory in the Arctic and the High North, increasing deterrence posture.

These installations are enhancing the Alliance's situational awareness and ability to operate in the region.

Combined Air Operations (CAOC) Norway.

Forward Land Forces (FLF) Finland.

Iceland Air Policing.



Exercises

NATO has conducted military exercises in the Arctic and High North since the early Cold War, strengthening Allied forces' ability to operate in extreme environments. In recent years, the scale of these exercises has increased.

Activities such as **Cold Response** in Norway and Denmark's **Arctic Endurance** series bring together **Allied forces** and are integrated under **Arctic Sentry**.



Task Force X - Arctic



A capability development initiative, not an operational task force

01

OPERATIONAL NEED

Persistent awareness

Maintain vigilance across the North Atlantic, the Arctic and the High North without relying only on scarce crewed platforms.

02

PURPOSE

Integrated, data-centric awareness

Build and validate a Multi-Domain Situational Awareness capability through operational experimentation.

03

END STATE

Day-zero ad hoc coalition model

Rapidly connect nationally provided crewed and uncrewed assets under NATO command from the outset of a crisis or operation.

TASK FORCE X - ARCTIC

The long-term value is a more adaptable, scalable and interoperable Allied force mix for the North Atlantic, the Arctic and the High North.

METOC Arctic challenges

- **Ground movements and trafficability.**
- **Snowdepth and snow accumulation.**
- **NWP – tuned for Arctic conditions.**
- **Observations + reporting of climate based changes i.e. permafrost.**
- **Sea ice, observations and models.**



Milmet Arctic Group

- To Identify current Arctic forecasting capabilities available from member nations that can support ACO/SHAPE.
- Co-ordinate with other NATO Capabilities (i.e. MILSWx Arctic).
- Inventory of national capabilities ongoing.

NATO's capabilities within the METOC field depends on the nations capabilities and contributions.



Summary

Interest in the Arctic and High North will remain and grow.

The region has become more central for homeland and collective defense in both North America and Europe.

A challenging operating environment – reinforces the need for Accurate, and timely METOC information.

Swedish contribution noticed and appreciated #WeAreNATO

