Securing the Future: Defence Innovation and Investment in a Changing NATO Landscape

Tobias Billström Nordic Defence Conference 2025

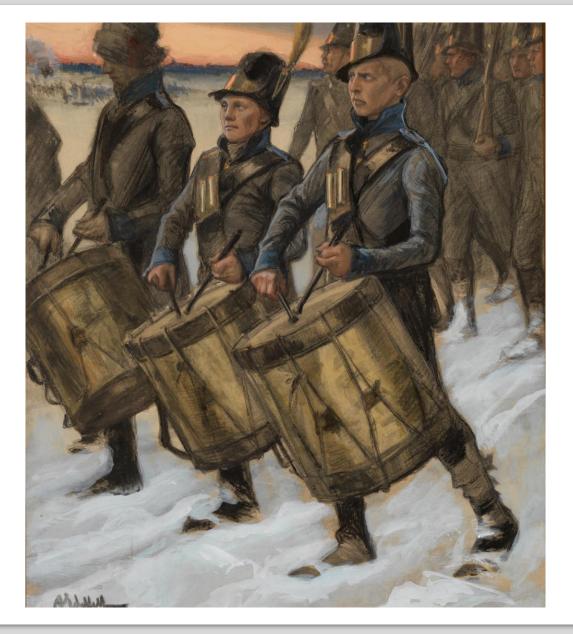


#### Who?

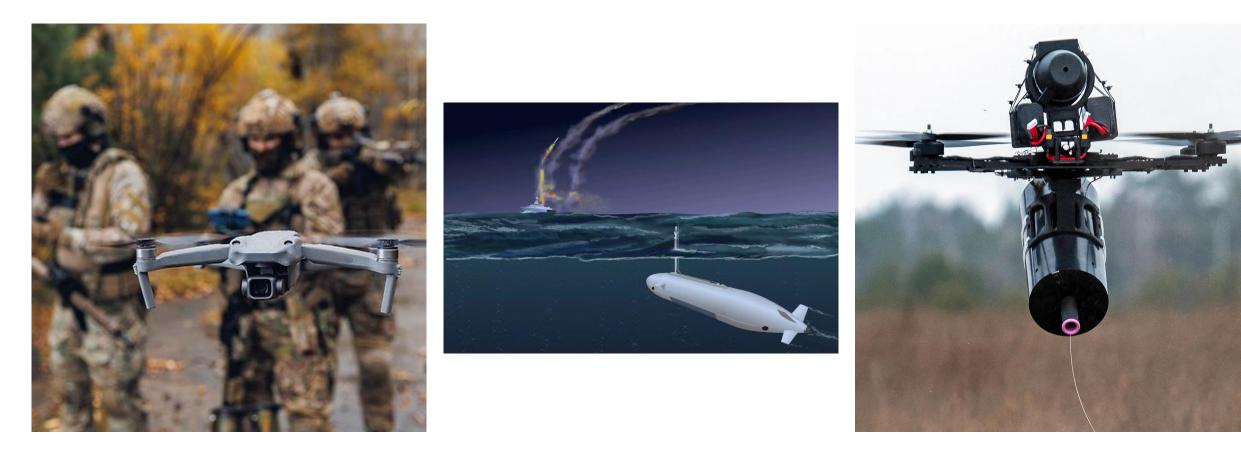
- Present: Self-employed consultant
- Novare: Director of EU-Nato Programme
- Previous: Foreign Minister, Minister of Migration, First Deputy Speaker and Chief Whip
- 20 years as an MP, 10 years as a Minister
- Cambridge, MPhil Historical Studies
- Lund, MA History
- Married, two kids Tone and Simon
- Live in Stockholm, Nacka











# "You can't rest on your laurels"

## Strategic Direction for Defence Innovation

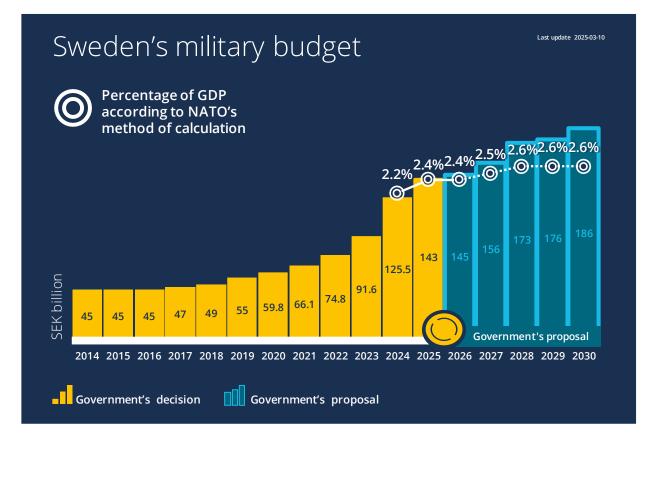
# Sweden in Nato

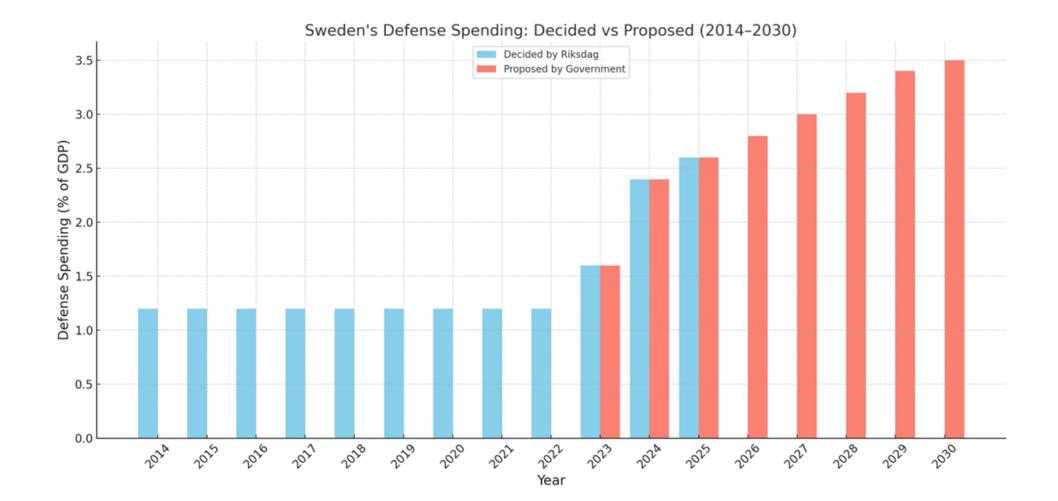
A. More cooperation with traditionally non-military segments of the civilian market

B. Create interfaces between those segments and the defence agencies

C. Make innovation a priority in the procurement process

Gradual reinforcement of Sweden's national defence budget





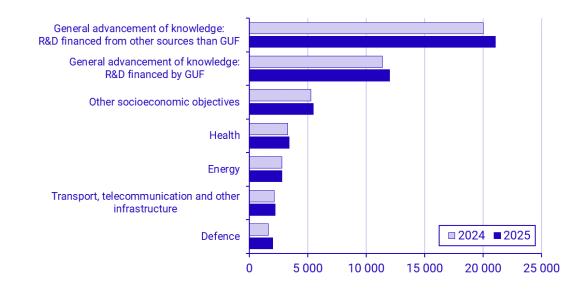
Reassessed situation as per 2025

# Financing of R&D in Sweden in 2025

- Defence is the socioeconomic objective that increases the most in relative terms.
- Compared to 2024, GBARD for defence purposes is estimated to increase by around 21 percent (SEK **345 million**).
- The Swedish Armed Forces' research grant (Research and technology development) is estimated to increase by 177 million, while The Swedish Defence Agency's is estimated to increase by around SEK 193 million, of which SEK 135 million is estimated to be for defence purposes.



- Government budget allocations for R&D
- Government budget allocations for R&D as a share of total appropriations



## The Swedish Industrial Funnel

- Broadness in business
- Extensive investments in innovation
- Long value chains
- The entire technological development ladder from basic research to commercialization
- Strong startup cluster
- Broadness in dual-use (materials technology, quantum physics, space technology, AI, communication technology and electronics)



#### Conclusions



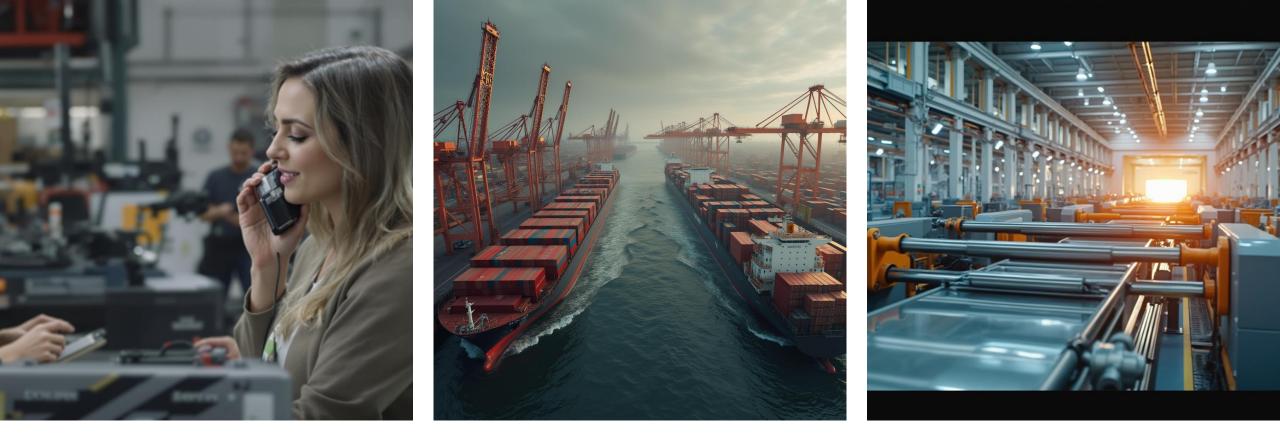
#### Strategic investments and ability enhancements

- Completely new combat aircraft system with Gripen E
- A26 next generation submarine
- GlobalEye a strategic resource that contributes to the capabilities of all combat forces by providing early warning









#### "Battles are fought in trenches but won in factories"

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## Thanks!