SELECTED ASPECTS OF THE PROCESS OF CHANGES OF THE SWEDISH SECURITY POLICY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY

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Annotation:
Currently, a series of changes impact the security policy both of the great powers and of the minor countries. This is also connected with looking for new ways of building up of the armed forces. Regardless of the importance of the great powers, it is however necessary to be also aware of the changes in other countries. For example, a very interesting from this respect is neutral Sweden that similarly like the Czech Republic addresses the issue of integration into the European security structures and re-assesses the build-up of its armed forces.

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The outset of new millennium brings a new stage of historical development in the security policy and the military science. The changes of geopolitical environment and relating new threats and risks require that individual countries have to considerably re-adjust their security policy.¹ The most important countries of the world also gradually re-assess the build-up of their armed forces and related policy of armament to meet the estimate of their strategic targets and ambitions.

Without any doubt, world powers play the key role in these processes. From the viewpoint of the Czech Republic it is important to keep under review the significant developmental trends that occur also in other European countries. Sweden is the country that selected the different way of securing the defense of the country compared with the Czech Republic.

The positive development of political, geographic and defense capabilities enabled that already for 200 years Sweden maintains peace. There are only few countries in Europe that were not impacted by war for such a long period of time.

The adjacent countries of Sweden, Norway and Denmark were occupied 50 years ago by Germany and, Finland fought for life in war with the Soviet Union, the Baltic...
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countries and Poland were destroyed by Germany and by the Soviet Union and after the war followed persecution and integration into the East Block countries.

The Sweden policy of neutrality has been and is the key trend of foreign policy for the whole time of peace. The Sweden neutrality or “non-participation in coalitions in time of peace with regard to neutrality in case of war” dating back to the 19th century expresses the capability of the country that decided to maintain security and stability by balancing between the fighting great powers. The main reason why this policy was successful for such a long time was, apart from that it served for the national interest it was also because it was in compliance with strategic reality and met the needs, as they were perceived by great powers.

Events at the end of 80ies and beginning of 90ies principally changed the geopolitical situation not only in the European region but they immediately influenced the overall perception and view on the security issues in the world-wide scale.

Not only the NATO countries but also countries like Sweden with its long policy of neutrality were strongly affected by two parallel processes that dominated the European development and that represented the key changes in the after-war period.

On one hand, the principal changes in the East Europe resulted in the end of the Cold War, while on the other hand in West Europe accelerated the process of integration in a number of areas. Sweden was forced to very quickly assess this development and decide what position to select in newly created European security structure. Despite the complicated internal political discussions about the value and way of the Swedish contribution to permanent security and stability in Europe, the Swedish Government as well as the public gave assent to joining the EU while maintaining the policy of neutrality.

During 90ies due to changes in the security field, Sweden revised its foreign and defense policy. The extensive discussion on the future position of Sweden in the world resulted in active approach of the country to the integration process into the European security structures and participation in regional developmental and partner programs. Sweden co-operates with NATO countries within the program Partnership for Peace (PfP) and takes part in the sessions of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). Sweden actively participates in formation of multinational peacekeeping corps and takes part in many observers operations in Europe and in the world. Sweden is actively engaged in the region of Baltic, North and Barents Sea for example in BSPF (The Baltic Sea Programme for the Future), it co-operates with so-called BALTBAT (Baltic Battalion) and BEAC (The Barents Euro-Artic Council).

Simultaneously with these activities a new conception of the Swedish security policy was developed, and on its basis important changes in the system of defense and modernization of Swedish armed forces were adopted.
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Intents and objectives of Swedish security policy

The Swedish security policy strives to maintain freedom and national independence of the country. The objective of the Swedish security policy is in all situations and with the use of all own resources to be able to ensure freedom and development of the Swedish society as an independent nation co-operating with other countries.

The Swedish security policy complies with the national and international goals:

• **national**, ensuring the appropriate defense, maintaining the capability to control the military threats that may directly affect Sweden and, at the same time to be prepared for the situations that are not to jeopardize peace and independency but that may lead to decline of normally functioning society,

• **international**, in co-operation with other countries to actively co-operate in maintaining of peace and improvement of security in the world, thus directly affect the security of Sweden.

Military non-alignment of Sweden is focused on capability of maintaining neutrality even in the case of war in the neighboring environment. It will require earmarking in advance sufficient defense resources. By maintaining reliable bases for reserves and adaptability to the “Overall defense organization”, Sweden contributes to the security policy of stability in the region of North Europe.

The region of the highest strategic importance for Sweden is Scandinavia. It is in its near vicinity and directly linked to other strategically important regions, especially:

• Russia,
• north of the Atlantic Ocean,
• region of the Baltic Sea,
• northern part of the European continent.

According to Sweden, Russia even of its stable internal political development is continually coping with many economic and political problems. Russia with its great potential and relative vicinity will always have a strong influence on the security situation of Scandinavia.

Ample natural resources are a factor that increases the significance of the whole region. North and west to the Scandinavian Peninsula are rich oil and natural gas deposits.

The Baltic Sea is an important boundary region and communication path between surrounding regions with their many strategic interests. In case of acceleration stress, the whole adjacent territory can be involved in the conflict.

Even if the risk of war in this region is now minimum, in the nearest vicinity of Scandinavia are dislocated strong modern military units.

In the 10 years to come, Sweden does not assume any direct military threat. Exception is the air attack or armed action against special targets in Sweden in connection with international situation.

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Another threat is a possibility of NBC weapons employment and their proliferation into non-stable countries. Another threat is also a possibility of refugee waves due to economic or ecologic crises.

New Swedish security policy broadens the security concept by conflicts other than war and considers they have the same level of threat as the military threat.

The focal point of Swedish security policy in Europe is continuous effort to cooperate with all countries as close as possible. This trend is in compliance with the belief that Swedish security must be based on a high degree of quality of mutual political and economic relations with democratic countries. The principal interest of Sweden remains a support to development of the countries of the Central and East Europe that will facilitate to deepening the democracy and development of economic and social environment.

Sweden joined the program “The Global Compact” (Program of sustainable development) that is to assist in decreasing the global threat resulting from deepening the difference between “rich and poor” countries. Within this program, the Swedish government launched its own initiative “Swedish Partnership for Global Responsibility”, whose objective is a positive co-operation of all involved Swedish entities (especially Swedish multi-national corporations) in the framework of developmental projects of OECD.

Sweden strives to offer effective contribution in the field of peace support and crisis management in Europe and in the world. Sweden co-operates with all security organizations in Europe. Simultaneously, it participates in UN and OSCE operations (See Annex), in joint foreign and security policy of EU, it is a observer in the WEU and it co-operates with NATO within the membership in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and Partnership for Peace.

![Security Policy Diagram]

Fig. 1: Model of Swedish security policy (Note: Facts and Figures)
Changes in the defense system and modernization of Swedish armed forces

The Swedish defense system undergoes necessary modernization called for by changes of the security situation in the world. The main aim is to have a modern, flexible and all-round defense on the basis of compulsory military service. It will be possible to employ currently created units both for the defense of Sweden and for participation in international operations.9

Similar as in the whole mature world10, also in Sweden the question of changes in the system of creation and composition of the armed forces is often discussed. In its basic documents Sweden strives to clearly express its new conception of security, its role in the reform of the Swedish defense system and impacts of the present changes on military science and development of the Swedish armed forces. The main goal of the Swedish armed forces is:

- defense of Sweden against the armed attack,
- defense of territorial integrity,
- active participation in the process of peace-keeping and security,
- support of Swedish society in the event of peace crisis.
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To accomplish these objectives, developed was a set of measures or actions that will significantly influence a preparation of military units and system of defense. Officially, Sweden called this document – Revolution in military affairs (RMA).  

The greatest changes were adopted in the character and way of conduct of combat operations and their 3 mutually interconnected and dependent elements:

- battlefield (good knowledge of environment),
- control and command (support to decision making processes directly in the battle),
- accurate and dynamic engagement.

The Swedish concept also takes into account a new way of conduct of war in which decisive for the success is an application of precise information and support of independent command. The initial point that facilitates a precise attack, or the armed conflict with the use of weapon systems, land, sea and air units is active, rapid and reliable command information system. It should provide dissemination of information, orders and reports consistently and with minimum time delay to all units.

In Sweden is RVZ perceived as a vision and conception for future development of military units. RVZ assumes employment of modern technologies in the Swedish armed forces. It becomes an important part of the reform of the Swedish defense and natural step in democracy. Tendency of development of democracy is understood from the industrial era to starting an era of information technology. Conception will enable to Swedish armed forces to apply modern information technology in a similar way as other successfully developed fields of the Swedish society apply them.

The building of Swedish defense systems undergoes significant changes and the main emphasis was focused on:

- formation of multinational units,
- development of new technologies (focus on information technology),
- new concept of personnel management.

Internationalization, or participating in multinational units represents a dramatic change for the Swedish armed forces. To date, the Swedish security policy based on the principle of military non-involvement strictly maintained a policy of neutrality and non-interference in case of military events. New approach highlights a necessity of Sweden to participate in European and international co-operation in the field of security and stability. In this connection, political decision was adopted and based on this decision it was possible to begin to form interoperable defense units.

The development of new technologies emphasizes a development of information technologies and their broadest implementation and use in the armed forces. The objective is quality and reliable information-technologic interconnecting interface of the Swedish land, navy, air and special and amphibious units. From independent for each component of the armed forces, Sweden begins to use optimized communication systems on the principle of interconnected and communicating systems. From the very
beginning, the greatest priority has a construction of information and network systems architecture. Information should be disseminated to all types of commands and units with no limits and very quickly.

The basis for internationalization and technological development of the Swedish units is an acquisition policy in the field of human resources. This field is now the most criticized in Sweden, as according to the armed force research it does not meet the future needs and requirements of the armed forces. The current process of changes in the Swedish armed forces revealed shortages and the Government together with the MoD are looking for new solutions and concepts utilizing the advantages of the existing systems and at the same time they will be prepared to meet all future needs.

New concept of the Swedish security policy and all adopted changes in the system of defense and modernization of the Swedish armed forces are the response to the development of security environment of Sweden. Based on detailed analyses of development of security situation of the end of 20th century, Sweden took up an active position in approach to creation of European and world security institutions. The Sweden seeks to use all available peace resources to continuous maintenance of a high level of security not only in the nearest region but also in the world.

The Swedish armed forces play important role in these processes and in order to accomplish all these tasks the armed forces undergo a decisive phase of the reform directed to modern ways of conduct of combat and active involvement in the processes of peacekeeping and order in the world in close co-operation with other foreign military units.

Though, Sweden way of ensuring its defense and security is different from that of the Czech Republic, it solves very similar problems and its basic documents reply to questions which presently are also in the Czech Republic concern.

Notes

1 After 2000, majority of great powers looked for new alternatives of security policy and important documents were adopted after the terrorist attack on 11 September 2001 in the USA.

2 Sweden joined the EU on 1 January 1995.


5 The Global Compact - program issued by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 1999, covering human rights, working standards and protection of environment. Program is organized within UNHRA, ILO and OECD. As a result of connecting the negotiation of social, environmental, economic and business fields, in 2002 the program was enlarged after the conference held in Johannesburg (SAR) by the so-called partners initiatives, voluntary joint obligations of the governments, international organizations and non-government bodies for the concrete activities to support the sustainable development.

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9 In 1993, in Almnäs the international training center for international peace operations - SWEDINT was established. Within this center, a Special Command was founded for the Swedish units and observers working in the foreign countries. In 2003 as a result of change of the Swedish armed forces and with the aim to incorporate any unit into the international corps a special command for international operation was discontinued. Sending and own support of units in abroad is controlled by the appropriate commands (land command, navy command, air force command) according to new regulations.
10 The USA issued a concept - Joint Vision 2020, In Russia in 2000 - Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation, the Concept of National Security of the Russian Federation, EU aims to establish the European Rapid Reaction Force, other countries: reforms of the armed forces of the most European countries are planned, Australia - Active Defense Doctrine, Homeland Fortress Defense, Forward Defense, Japan - in co-operation with the USA Defense White Paper.
11 Available at: http://forsvar.regeringen.se/inenglish/informationmtrl/informltl.html [cit. 25. 3. 2003].

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Fig. 3: Graphical presentation of Sweden foreign missions

Legend:

At the present time, Sweden participates actively in the following missions:\textsuperscript{12}

- **Afghanistan**
  - UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan), UN mandate, observer mission, 1 military advisor,
  - ISAF (International Security Assistance Force), mandate OSN (resolution 1368), logistic personnel, 33 persons,

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** – SFOR (Stabilisation Force Bosnia-Herzegovina), mandate OSN, peace-keeping mission, the command personnel, 5 soldiers,

- **EU** – EUMM (European Union Monitoring Mission) - 6 permanent observers, activities mostly on the territory of the former Yugoslavia,

- **Ethiopia and Eritrea** – UNMEE (United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia), mandate OSN, observer mission, 5 military observers, 1 military advisor,

- **Georgia** – UNOMIG (United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia), mandate OSN, observer mission, 3 observers,

- **India/Pakistan** – UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan), mandate OSN, observer mission, 5 observers, 1 doctor,

- **Israel/Lebanon/Syria** – UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation), Golan Heights, observer mission, 7 military observers,

- **Congo** – MONUC (United Nations Observer mission in the Democratic Republic Of Congo), mandate OSN, observer mission, 5 observers,
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- Korea – NNSC (Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission), mandate OSN, mission to control truce, 4 delegates,
- Kosovo – KFOR (Kosovo Force), mandate OSN, peace-keeping mission, unit SWEBAT 763 soldiers, currently employed in Macedonia,
- Kuwait – UNIKOM (United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission), mandate OSN, observer mission, 2 military observers,
- Sierra Leone – UNAMSIL (United Nations Assistance Mission to Sierra Leone), mandate OSN, peacekeeping and democracy assistant mission, 3 military observers,
- Sudan – JMC (Joint Military Commission) - military board, 3 military advisers,
- East Timor – UNMISET (United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor), mandate OSN, peace support and peacekeeping mission, 2 military observers.