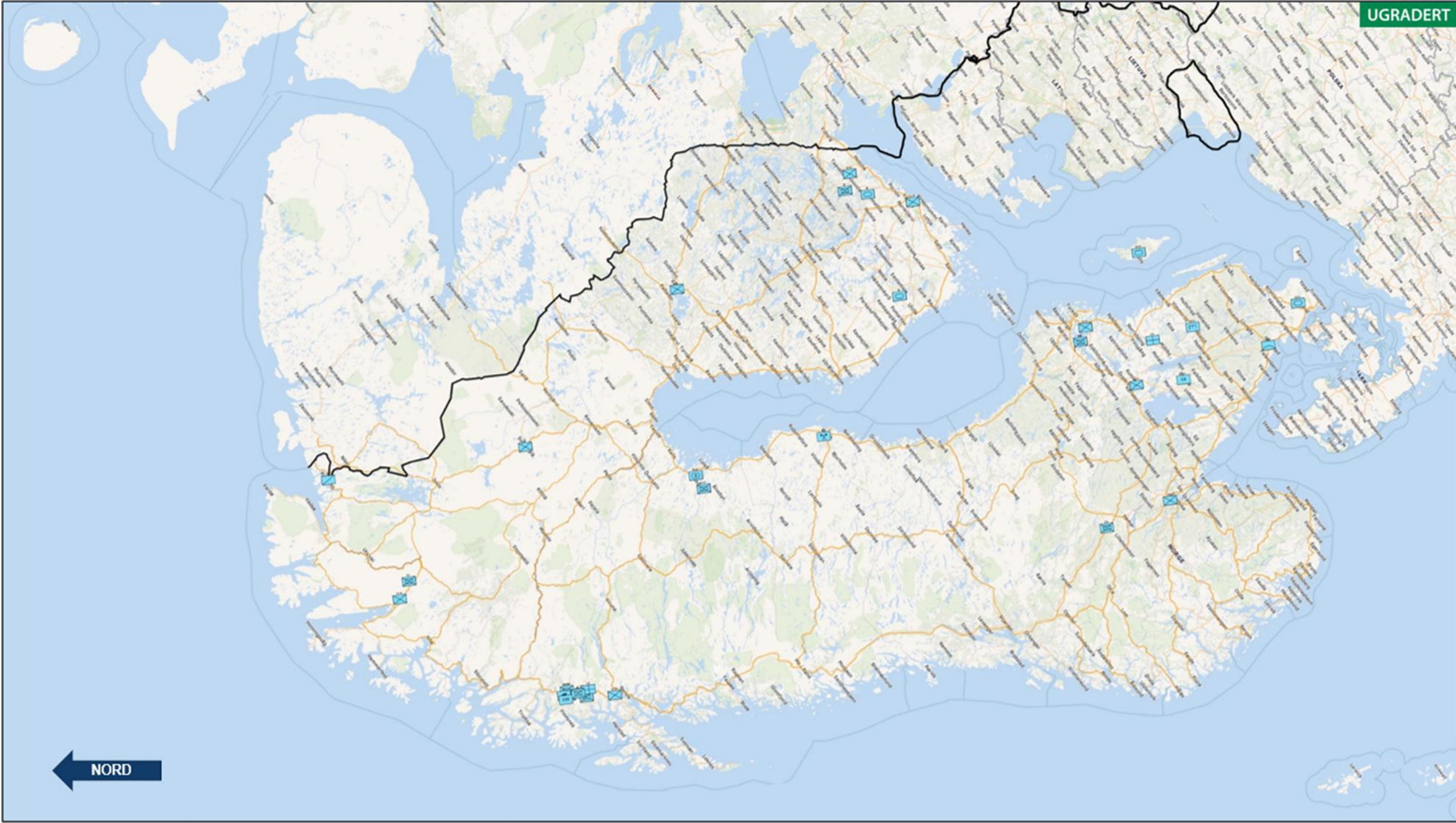


Folk og Forsvar Nordic Conference

Bergen 19 May

**Colonel Asbjørn Lysgård
Commander Bergenhus Homeguard 09**





Sweden and Finland

- Non-alignment
- Normative foreign policy
- UN, aid, and global role
- Swedish exceptionalism
- Arms exporter



The Baltic Sea and the Immediate Region

- Russia as the main challenge
- Gotland as a strategic key
- Finland and the Baltic states
- Germany and Poland becoming more important
- The Baltic Sea as a strategic area



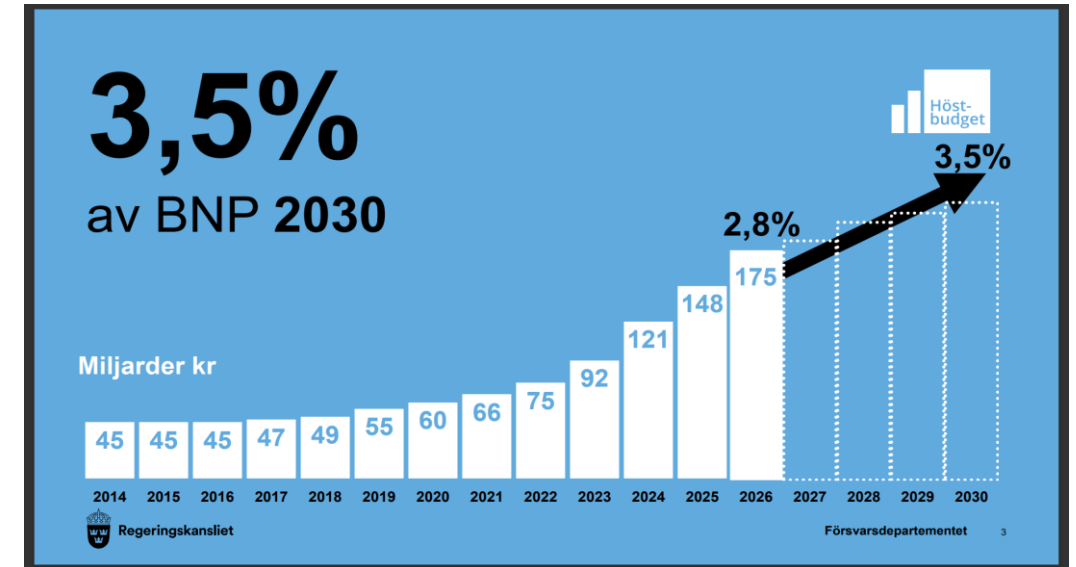
NATO / Security Policy

- NATO members in 2023 and 2024
- Break with 200 years of military non-alignment
- Active role in NATO
- Baltic Sentry
- Air contributions in Poland and Iceland
- FLF Latvia & FLF Finland
- Norfolk and joint operational planning
- The Nordic and Baltic region as a JOA



Swedish Defense and Long-Term Plan

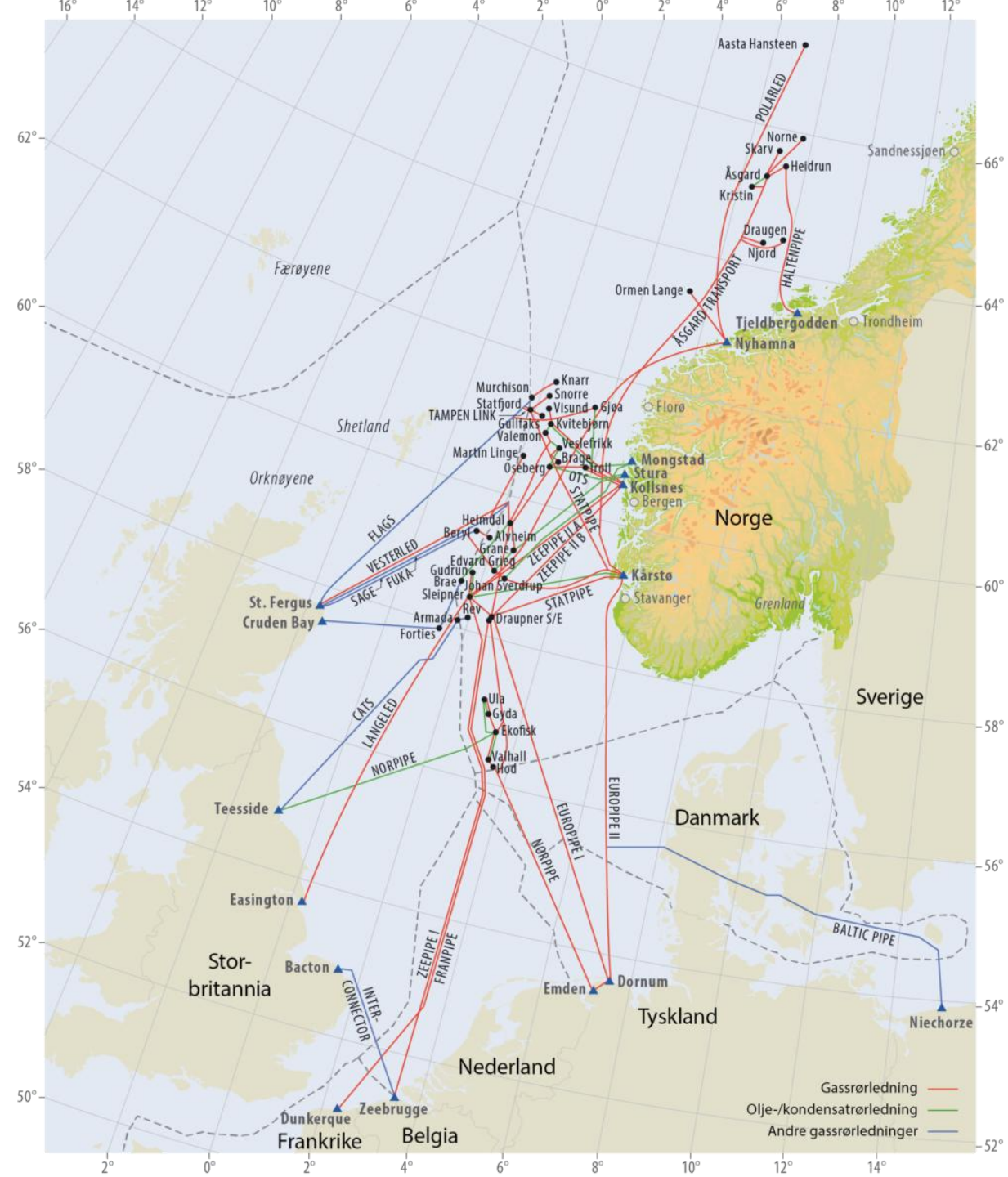
- Major budget increase, +300 billion SEK
- Brigade structure
- Baltic Sea focus
- Total defense
- NATO integration
- Yesterday's challenges?
- New defense commission in 2026



Swedish Defense Industry

- Very important for Swedish (economy, innovation, settlement, identity)
- Historically large defense industry from the Cold War era
- Major actors dominate
- Saab, submarines, fighter aircraft
- Close connection between state–def industry
- Export nation (35)
- Strategic autonomy
- Important in the EU and NATO







The Nordic Region as a Strategic Region

- All Nordic countries in NATO
- Joint operational area and NDC
- Branch cooperation: air force, army, home guard, intelligence, etc.
- Logistics and mobility
- NB8, JEF, NORDEFCO
- The Nordic region more important than before



Illustration: iStockphoto



Significance for Norway

- Sweden and Finland provides strategic depth
 - EU decisions without Norway
 - Important cooperation in the north
 - Sweden and Finland as an important partner for Norway
-
- Norway will cover the High North and The Western Flank

