

Towards a method for Swedish Armed Forces capability planning, monitoring and forecasting

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The paper outlines a method for Swedish Armed Forces capability planning, monitoring and forecasting. The method operates in a context that is described in The Armed Forces Vee model for Capability Management (Försvarsmakten, 2023). The decisive objective of this method development, and thus new management within the planning process, is to create a firm basis for decision making in order to obtain conditions for higher operational effect from The Armed Forces military units. The method for capability planning, monitoring and forecasting advances in spite of imbalances regarding lack of holistic viewpoints in present planning process. It is necessary to have an adequate planning process in order to assemble all activities needed for the transformation from requirements to a realisation of the capability. Capability management is currently mostly seen as a strategic vision and guidance for new capabilities, a form of a transition guidance for the future. Somewhere, after the capability being initiated and partially planned, it is the financial management that takes over capability realisation.

It is the planning process that puts together capability requirements, economy and other activities in to a structured whole. When there is an imbalance between activities, an insufficient activity can cause another activity to over-power. For instance, when requirements management is insufficient the financial management will be excessively reinforced and become the main foundation for both decision-making and resource allocation. When capability requirements are insufficient and traceability is weak, the development will fall in to the Swedish private sector's strong engineering tradition and Government's dominant financial management methods. At the end, it will be the cost connected to the tactical and technical system level (without the structured connection to capabilities), that determines the outcome of how capabilities are achieved.

The goal is to create management of capability requirements and their traceability that can be used for better decisions and resource allocation. The better the quality of capability requirements the easier decision-making and monitoring is. With the upcoming NATO membership, the Swedish Armed Forces overarching model has to be analysed and adjusted. A possible roadmap for future development is an attempt to connect financial management and capabilities. The monitoring of capability realisation needs to provide information for adjusting capability requirements when needed.

In conjunction to the method development, an IT-application is also in progress. At present time, the application is under approval for use in The Armed Forces. The application manage requirements, capability data and capability forecast in a manner that facilitate firm capability decision-making. The application does not yet support resource allocation.

Reference

Försvarsmakten. (2023). FM2023-6753:1 Försvarsmaktens strategiska plan 2023. Stockholm: Försvarsmakten.