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STATSREVISORERNE  
RIGSREVISIONEN



Extract from Rigsrevisionen's report on

# **whether the Danish Defence has the necessary prerequisites to perform its tasks**

submitted to the Public Accounts Committee



1849  
147.281  
237  
1976  
114.6  
22.480  
908

September 2018

# 1. Introduction and conclusion

## 1.1. PURPOSE AND CONCLUSION

1. This report concerns whether the Danish Defence has the necessary prerequisites to perform its tasks with frigates, multi-role frigates and battle tanks. The main purpose of the Defence is to assert Denmark's sovereignty and ensure its continued existence, integrity and security. To achieve that purpose, the Defence's capabilities – including frigates, multi-role frigates and battle tanks – must have the necessary prerequisites to perform their tasks in a satisfactory manner, i.e. the capabilities must have sufficient equipment in good working condition and adequate crew with the right skills. A characteristic feature of the tasks that the Defence is required to perform is the obligation to make its capabilities available in Denmark or to NATO, at short notice.

The background for this study is the fact that the Defence has previously had problems performing its tasks with other capabilities. For instance, Rigsrevisionen's reports from 2008 and 2012 on the procurement and task performance of the EH-101 helicopters showed that the Defence was unable to perform the tasks the EH-101 were intended for, and that the helicopters did not have the necessary prerequisites to perform the required tasks in a satisfactory manner. Additionally, the report on the Ministry of Defence's implementation of efficiency initiatives showed that the capabilities of the Defence were challenged in terms of equipment in 2015.



Frigates, multi-role frigate and battle tank from the Danish Defence.



Photo: Ministry of Defence

2. The purpose of the study is to assess whether the frigates, multi-role frigates and battle tanks have had the prerequisites required to perform their tasks in a satisfactory manner, in the period from 2014 to 2017. The report answers the following questions:

- Have the frigates, multi-role frigates and battle tanks had the required prerequisites to perform all their tasks, i.e. readiness, deployment and training, in a satisfactory manner compared with the objectives set by the Defence?

Rigsrevisionen initiated the study in October 2017.

### CAPABILITIES

A capability consists of platforms like, for instance, frigates, and crew like, for instance, captains and mates.

### EH-101 HELICOPTERS

The Defence has used EH-101 helicopters for search and rescue tasks since 2007. The helicopters can be deployed for tactical transport of troops.

### NATO

The Defence contributes capabilities to NATO, which means that the Defence must be able to deploy capabilities for international missions at short notice.

### NOTICE OF READINESS

The number of days the Defence has to make the capabilities requested by NATO ready for deployment.

### DEPLOYMENT

A generic term used in this report to describe the movement of ships and battle tanks to a place or position for participation in international missions or performance of tasks for the authorities like fisheries inspection or sea surveillance.

### OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY

Operational capability is an indication of the ability of a capability to perform its tasks. An assessment of operational capability includes equipment and crew as well as the crew's level of training.

### THE DEFENCE

In this report, the Defence refers to two agencies under the Ministry of Defence: Defence Command Denmark and Defence Equipment and Procurement.

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

In this report, the Ministry of Defence refers to the department and its agencies.

### TRAINING

In this report, training refers to the training of battle tank, multi-role frigate and frigate crew for deployment or operational readiness.

### BATTLE TANK UNIT

A fixed number of battle tanks designated to perform a specific task.

## CONCLUSION

It is Rigsrevisionen's assessment that the Ministry of Defence has failed to ensure that the frigates, multi-role frigates and battle tanks had the required prerequisites to perform all their tasks in a satisfactory manner compared with the objectives set by the Defence.

The Ministry of Defence has emphasized that the performance of the Defence in respect to readiness and deployment has been satisfactory. However, the study has identified examples where the frigates, multi-role frigates and battle tanks have not had the required prerequisites to perform all their tasks in a satisfactory manner, which has affected readiness as well as deployment. Generally, the Defence is very vulnerable in these areas and has difficulties achieving its own performance objectives.

The Defence has three *frigates*, of which one is assigned to NATO and deployable, and the remaining two are used for training. In 2016 and 2017, the latter two did not have the crew or equipment that the Defence had specified as necessary for their ability to perform their tasks. It is Rigsrevisionen's assessment that the lack of crew members has, among other things, reduced the outcome of the training for the crew of the frigate that is to take over the tasks of readiness for and deployment by NATO from 2018.

In 2016 and 2017, the *multi-role frigates* did not have the equipment and crew that the Defence had specified as necessary for their ability to perform their tasks during deployment. For 22 out of 24 months in 2016 and 2017, the operational ability of at least one of the multi-role frigates was too low, mainly to due to a shortage of crew; for instance, for three months of 2016, one of the multi-role frigates was missing a member of the crew who had important military tasks during the deployment.

Keeping the *battle tanks* operational has been a challenge in 2016 and 2017. Many battle tanks have not been in running order, and the Defence has not had an adequate number of battle tanks ready for operation in the battle tank unit that was assigned to NATO in 2016 and 2017. In 2017, the Defence had one battle tank unit assigned to NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, which meant that the Defence was committed to having the battle tanks ready for operation within a few days' notice. Despite this requirement, the armoured battalion did not – for five months of 2017 – have the required number of battle tanks assigned to NATO ready for operation.

The Ministry of Defence has informed Rigsrevisionen that the department intends to strengthen the management and supervision of the performance of the Defence.