



Extract from the report to the  
Public Accounts Committee on  
how the Danish Defence handles  
lost and recovered weapons and  
ammunition

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# Introduction and conclusion

## 1.1. Purpose and conclusion

1. It can have serious consequences if weapons and ammunition belonging to the Danish Defence fall into the wrong hands. It is therefore essential that the Defence observes the section of the *Security regulation* that addresses management of lost and recovered weapons and ammunition.

In recent years, the Danish Defence Committee under the Danish parliament has taken an interest in how the Defence manages weapons and ammunition, and the committee has been particularly interested in information on the amount of weapons and ammunition that the Defence has lost.

Rigsrevisionen's report from April 2015 on the inventory held by the Defence established that inventory is not managed effectively by the Defence.

Against this backdrop, Rigsrevisionen decided to examine how the Defence and Home Guard (in the following collectively referred to as the Defence) handle the loss and recovery of weapons and ammunition, including whether the Defence is able to determine the accurate amount of weapons and ammunition lost and recovered.

The Defence handles large amounts of weapons and ammunition in the course of its day-to-day operations. It is crucial that the Defence minimizes the security risks associated with the loss and recovery of weapons and ammunition.

The purpose of the study is to determine whether the Defence observes the section of the *Security regulation* that addresses management of lost and recovered weapons and ammunition, which is essential for its effort to minimize the security risks associated with such incidents. Adherence to the *Security regulation* contributes to ensuring that

- the Danish Defence Intelligence Service can provide appropriate counselling on reducing potentially harmful consequences of the loss and recovery of weapons and ammunition;
- that all relevant authorities are informed of losses and recovery of weapons and ammunition.

Loss and recovery of weapons and ammunition must be reported in accordance with the *Security regulation* to enable the Defence to determine accurately the amount of weapons and ammunition lost and recovered.

*In this report, the **Defence** is referring to both the Danish Defence and the Danish Home Guard.*

*The **Security regulation** (regulation concerning the Danish military intelligence service, FKOBST 358-1) prescribes the rules and procedures to be adhered to by the military intelligence service and it addresses the management of lost and recovered weapons and ammunition.*

*The term "lost" covers weapons and ammunition that are lost, missing or stolen.*

*The term "recovery" covers all weapons and ammunition found, including weapons and ammunition that the Defence did not know were missing.*

*In this report, the term “**weapons**” refers to both weapons and vital parts of weapons.*

*A weapon consists of the weapon itself and a part or component that is essential for the operation of the firearm. The essential component of guns and rifles is, for instance, the bolt.*

*In this report, the term “**ammunition**” refers to both ammunition and explosives.*

## CONCLUSION

Rigsrevisionen’s study shows that the Defence does not adequately comply with the section of the Security regulation that addresses management of lost and recovered weapons and ammunition.

The annual statements of weapons and ammunition lost and recovered prepared by the Defence are based on incomplete information and therefore inaccurate. Rigsrevisionen’s study shows that the Defence is losing more weapons and more ammunition than indicated in the annual statements. Moreover, the Defence is not reporting all incidents, as prescribed by the Security regulation. Rigsrevisionen’s study also shows that the Defence’s IT systems are not facilitating preparation of reliable statements of lost and recovered weapons and ammunition.

Incidents that are not reported in incident reports are not followed up. According to the Security regulation, timely reporting of breaches of the military security regulations is essential, if the Defence Intelligence Service is to provide the necessary counselling on how to minimize the potentially harmful consequences of such incidents. Another consequence of the inadequate reporting of incidents is that neither the police nor the legal arm of the Defence – the Military Prosecution Service – are appropriately informed of and involved in the cases.

During the period of examination, the Defence Committee approached the ministry on two occasions with requests for information on the amount of weapons and ammunition that the Defence had lost. The responses provided by the Minister of Defence were based on the Defence’s annual statements of weapons and ammunition lost and recovered. However, Rigsrevisionen’s study shows that these statements are elaborated on the basis of incomplete information.