

# **The Danish YROW Report**

**For the CIOR Summer Congress in Maastricht 2003**



## **The Danish YROW Delegation 2003**

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## **Preface**

The primary purpose of this report is to prepare the Danish YROW delegation for the theme of this year's Young Reserve Officers' Workshop (YROW) at the CIOR congress in Maastricht. By being well prepared we anticipate to enhance our contribution to the workshop. Furthermore, this is a good opportunity to share our views with the rest of the Danish CIOR delegation by distributing this report to them.

The view presented in this report has been reached through two meetings during the spring of 2003 and is mainly based on the Danish YROW delegates' personal experience and viewpoints.

The main theme for this year "**Distances**" is subdivided into 5 questions. For obvious reasons we have chosen to divide the report into these 5 questions as stated below.

### **1. Military and Civilian Society**

How can Armed Services reach diverse populations so as to ensure public support of military institutions and enhance public understanding of military issues?

### **2. Military and Political Leadership**

Often civilian leaders have limited exposure to military matters;

Can we improve their knowledge and influence their decisions? How? What role can Reservists play in this respect?

### **3. "Old" and "New" NATO**

As NATO expands to the east and to the south what can we do to assist the new nations in their integration? Can Reservists play an important role in these issues?

### **4. Geography, culture, religion and wealth may distances nations and peoples.**

How can Reservists assists in bringing them closer?

### **5. International organizations and national self – determination sometimes could be in conflict.**

Can NATO survive?

In addition, the report will begin with a short introduction, which hopefully gives the reader a better understanding of the answers presented by Danish delegation.

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## 1. Introduction

To facilitate the reading of this report, we have chosen to briefly describe the framework in which the Danish YROW delegation is addressing the questions. We thereby hope to create the best possible basis for the reader as we have answered the questions stressing our national context. To begin with, we explain what constitutes a Danish Officer of the Reserve, and thereby clarifying the frame of references as such.

The Danish Armed Forces has roughly 10,000 reserve and 30,000 full-time personnel. The task of the Reserve is to assist in the training of soldiers as well as participating in international assignments. To be eligible for Reserve Officers Training you must first pass an admissions test. The training begins with six months at sergeant- and lieutenant schools. Subsequently, soldier serves at a regiment for about one year, depending on the functional skills and responsibilities. During this regimental service period, one holds the rank of lieutenant, still undergoing training while training private soldiers. In extension of this or after being discharged, the officer gets the option of signing a contract with the Danish International Brigade and thereby being posted abroad for six months. On the other hand there is the option of signing a contract on a part-time basis aimed at enabling service alongside a civilian job. When signing a part-time contract the officer can be called up to assist in the training of privates during war games, shooting camps and much more; or be called up to maintain the level of military skills and readiness through various military exercises.

In the following, we will briefly state some basic belief of ours, which we believe are fundamental criteria for a successful implementation of our suggestions.

The Danish constitution states that every Danish man capable of bearing arms is obliged to contribute to the country's defence according to additional regulations, as the law prescribe. Changing this basic principle will demand an amendment of our constitution, which is not to be taken lightly. Denmark's constitution is a part of the foundation of our country and to change it will mean changing our culture, background and the basis of our values.

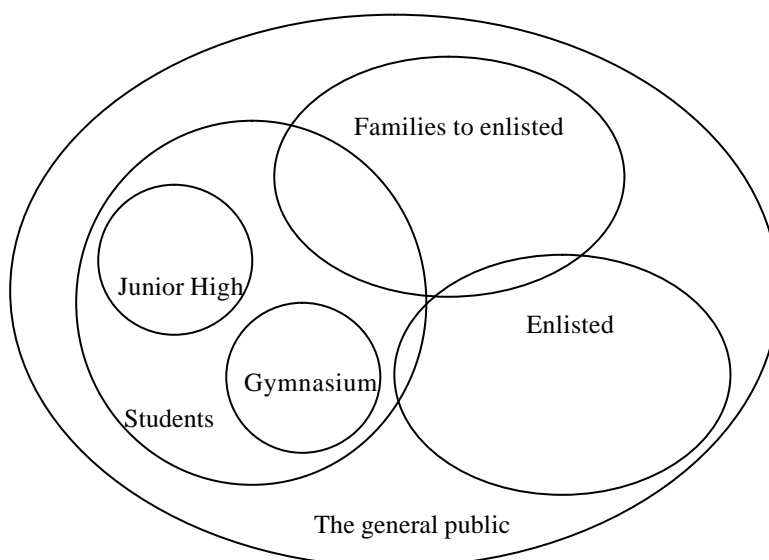
Additionally, the Danish delegation thinks that the responsibility of nation's armed forces lies with *all* of the people of that nation. We should therefore not go back to old times where a nation's armed forces consisted of the poorest people in the country, those that cannot afford an education or find another job. When a nation decides to engage into armed conflicts, then *all* people of that nation, with no regards to wealth, religion, ethnic background or otherwise should take responsibility for that

decision. With an all professional army we believe that in time people will distance themselves from the responsibility as a citizen. To participate in securing national / international stability, whether it is in the armed forces or another aspect, you also contribute to closing the gap between people. In addition to this, the bare size and composition of Denmark and its armed forces, does not speak in favour of a professional army, if we are to uphold our international military and political commitments.

## 2. Military and Civilian Society

**How can Armed Services reach diverse populations so as to ensure public support of military institutions and enhance public understanding of military issues?**

In order to reach diverse populations, one must first figure out how to define the word population. We have decided to define it as social groups within a country. In that perspective, we have divided the Danish population into smaller groups represented by **circles** in the figure below, where it is possible to belong to several different groups. Each target group can effectively be reached by individual means, but since they have a fair deal of identical motives we mention some additional examples later.



First, one must use multiple methods in order to ensure that the medium and the receiver correlates and will meet. This could be anything from advertisements in newspapers to aeroplane dropped leaflets. Secondly, the message must be understandable and acceptable for each target group. Rather

obvious, language is an important factor that must be addressed in order to succeed. However, this is not enough. If the receiver finds the message aggressive, then it has the effect that the receiver becomes offended and no positive effects are reached. In addition to this, examples will be addressed that hopefully cover a broad spectrum of the civilian society as possible and give ideas on how to ensure public support of military institutions and enhance public understanding of military issues.

### ***Junior High School***

In order to let teenagers, who are potential candidates for the armed forces, experience the military environment, school classes are offered a one-week program where military disciplines are experienced. The level of workload is of course adjusted in order to assure that they have a successful experience. During the week they get an impression of the environment and they get an idea of what is implied by this line of job.

### ***Gymnasium (High School)***

In Denmark, Gymnasiums have an annual “carrier” day where representatives from several educational institutions explain their particular education. The armed forces are also represented. This line of work is followed up with advertisements in newspapers and TV spots and thereby reaching as many candidates as possible.

### ***Families to enlisted***

A parent’s day is a day where families of the enlisted personal are invited to see the place where the military education takes place. Program for a day like this turns out to be similar to events for the general public. The most important thing is that the families get a chance to see what their family member has learned during the enlisted time.

### ***The General Public***

Each year some of the barracks are open for the public in order to ensure that the general population gets a chance to see how the armed forces operate. Here it is possible to try some of the different kinds of equipment and get instructions on how to use it. This part is particularly of great enjoyment for the younger children. The events taking place during that day are meant to give people a realistic picture of the line of assignments that the armed forces solve. Still, it is important to keep in mind that all the spectators have an enjoyable day.

Along with these activities for people from different social groups, educational material should be adjusted for each target group and distributed containing information regarding the purpose of the National Defence, the Reserve, and international missions.

### ***Using the media***

Lately, the use of military analytics in the news has become very common and in this way the public has become aware of how different conflicts around the world are looked upon from a military perspective. Hopefully, this gives a better understanding of how the armed forces are working. However, the message that is sent here reaches millions of people and therefore words and the visually appearance must be carefully chosen. A disadvantage of using the media is the diminutive time to make a fulfilling statement, which in turn gives a misinterpret message.

### ***In public places***

Public events in larger cities are a way to shorten the distance between the public and the armed forces. In this way the public gets a chance to meet the people working within the armed forces and speak publicly about their life and work. In connection with this, information pamphlets could be distributed.

### **The role of Reservists**

An important thing is to be visible in the public debate and be acknowledged for supporting a positive goal, in this case ensuring peace and stability. Reservists could without doubt help out with the events earlier mentioned and hereby build bridges. Above all, the Reservists have the ability to let the civilian and the military world come together.

## **3. Military and Political Leadership**

**Often civilian leaders have limited exposure to military matters;**

**Can we improve their knowledge and influence their decisions? How?**

The foundation for the Reserve and by that also for CIOR/YROW is that we do matter, and therefore it is also possible for us to make a difference. With this as a background condition it is clear that we as Reservists can affect the political leaders by different means.

### **What role can Reservists play in this respect?**

One influential competence is the Reservist's civilian education. Many of the Danish Reservists are highly educated and some are also represented among the political leaders, which is the most direct form of influence. The classical way to affect political leaders is through lobbyism. In this way the Reservist can contact defence spokesmen within the political parties and create a network where it is possible to contact and influence the decisions of the political leaders.

Another way of using lobbyism is to use the press. We discussed this matter and saw it as a last option. The Danish Reserve Officers Association is highly respected among the leading political parties in Denmark and has had great influence on defence policies so far. In some matters the Reserve Officers Association are even asked to participate in work groups concerning the future of the Danish defence. To use the press in these matters would therefore be to jeopardize this channel of influence. But in this respect it is still possible for a Reservist to use the press as long as there is no official connection to the Danish Reserve Officers Association.

In the above, the focus has been on the traditional ways of how to influence political leaders. We would like to expand this discussion by bringing in some new perspectives:

- One alternative could be to arrange a conference or debate with the participation of defence spokesmen in political parties, Reservist, and perhaps also other military personnel, to discuss different defence issues in a panel. If this discussion was made through an open conference, which may include the press, intellectuals and other interested participants could also enhance the public's knowledge about the defence in a more societal context, as in question 1.
- Another possibility is to invite politicians out to see the capability of the armed forces and the role of the Reservists. Let them realize that there are tasks we are very well suited for, because of the combination of our civilian and military competences. It could for instance be an economist or a lawyer with a reservist background working for the military.
- The use of happenings is often very successful and if you influence the civilian population, you can also indirectly influence the political leaders. The use of happenings, though, may have some limitations. We, as Reservists, are not legally allowed to participate in just any event while

representing the Danish military. But still, we believe it is possible to influence the civilian population and the political leaders through happenings to the extent they are considered thoroughly.

#### **4 “Old” and “New” NATO**

##### **As NATO expands to the east and to the south what can we do to assist the new nations in their integration?**

To help assist the integration of the new NATO members it can be a great asset to make bilateral and multilateral agreements between the various member states. In order to be integrated, it is important that the old and new NATO members acquire knowledge about each other. Knowledge, and thus understanding, is an important step to overcome distances, break down barriers, and in that way integrate the new member countries. Denmark has good experiences using some of the following ways of integration that have worked extremely well:

- Exchange programs between old and new member countries. Individuals or units from a new member state can learn from old members when coming to that country, and spend time there in order to learn and get experience of how an old NATO member works. Similarly, it can also be the other way around, because old NATO members can of course also learn from the new members. Additionally, representatives from an old member country could visit a new member country to assist in education or other activities where the new member country lacks knowledge and routine. In Denmark, soldiers from the Baltic countries are attending the Danish Military Academies and afterwards they go home to use their skills to modernise their respective armies.
- “Friendship” programs between barracks from different countries. This basically works like exchange programs. Having a friendship program creates a feeling of personal contact and often it is easier to concentrate one’s help to a particular area. For example, the Danish regiment 'Prinsens Livregiment' has for some years now trained and educated a great number of soldiers from the Baltic States.

- Joint international units when in NATO missions. It could be useful and an educational experience for both parts if an old member country and a new member country join in building an international military unit when going to operate in a NATO mission. This has been the case in NATO missions in the Balkans where a Baltic unit is a part of a battalion under Danish leadership. The level of joint operation must be taken into account in each situation. When preparing to operate in a joint international mission, it is also important to make a brief orientation about the countries that you are going to be working with. This would be a way of filling the gap between two possibly very different cultures and could diminish future problems concerning cultural or linguistic differences.
- Joint military exercises like Strong Resolve in Poland where units from different countries participate in order to exercise NATO standards.
- Keep having CIOR conferences in order to meet the new and coming members of NATO. All kinds of international meetings and events are relevant to create contact between member countries. Integration is much easier when people are young and today's young officers are tomorrow's leaders and therefore it is essential that young officers get the opportunity to meet and discuss national defence and the role of Reservists in an international forum.

### **Can Reservists play an important role in these issues?**

Reservists can indeed help assist the new members of NATO in becoming integrated in the Alliance. Danish Reservists are already involved in the activities listed above, and the key point in using Reservists is the fact that they usually have others competences besides their military knowledge. It is up to each old member country to locate and specify the individual Reservist's competences. Especially reservists who have an extended knowledge about a specific new member country can be great assets in a cooperation or exchange programs between the two countries.

## **5. Geography, culture, religion and wealth may distances nations and peoples.**

We believe that the four areas mentioned are truly some of the reasons why nations and peoples distance from each other. They are four very essential reasons why many of the conflicts that have been

fought during history. It is said that people or nations who do not learn from history are to repeat it. Therefore, it is reasonable to view the four areas from a human nature and a historical point of view. This will make the answer of this question nuanced by the statements in our introduction and examples from the history. In doing so, our answer is backed by the fact that people and nations use historical events as an argument for their actions, whether it is engaging in war for the right to a territory, or the interpretation of another nation's action, or the armament of its army. This is what we have seen through time, whether it is between nations like in the Middle East or Pakistan and India or between people as it has happen in Northern Ireland and in ex Yugoslavia. It is our opinion that the keyword for this question is tolerance. Many conflicts through history have been started due to the lack of tolerance for other races, religions, cultures and so forth. Even today's terrorist attacks also originate from the lack of tolerance for other people and nations. This is exactly why it is so important to make the distances between people and nations shorter. To believe that disputes are only solved by armed conflicts is a narrow-minded view. However, unfortunately as it may sound, some situations will call for the use of military backing.

To reach the objective and shorten the distances between nations and people is with no doubt a great task, which calls for an open-minded approach from all participating nations. Initially, participants must be familiar with each others background, including religious, historical and cultural issues so that we can identify the differences, but evenly important, the similarities. This in turn will make us all capable of understanding why issues are raised and why one nation might argue more for one issue than another. In many situations disputes are due to prejudge mental beliefs and/or lack of communication.

Before addressing the role of the Reservist in this field, let us look at some example of how to shorten the distances. One way that springs into mind is of course CIOR and its congress. In this forum many nations have the opportunity to meet, share knowledge, opinions, and find common goals and values. This type of meeting is not limited to reservists. Around the world assemblies are held and people from different nations meet to expand their horizon, make new acquaintances and share knowledge. The educational sector also uses various ways to let their students gain extended knowledge about different nations, cultures, and other subjects. Through exchange programs between universities or colleges, students get the chance to expand their horizon on a first hand basis. To read about another country is one thing, but to actually travel to that country and meet the people, to talk to them and hear their opinion on certain issues, is of so much more value. During the last 25 years the Internet has provided a lot of people in the world with a broad variety of information, such as different nation's

history, culture, religion, and geography. This way of sharing information and knowledge between people in one part of the world to people in another, has already proven to be effective. Especially in countries that are very remote from the rest of the world, the Internet can be a way to bring down barriers and distances and build bridges.

The above-mentioned perspectives are viewed from a human nature and a historical point of view. To address the part on how Reservists can assist in bridging the gap between nations and bringing them closer, we believe that whether you are a Reservist or not, you still have an obligation to bring down barriers. As a citizen of your country you should participate in bringing people together regardless of religion, culture, language, or for that matter political view – tolerate your fellow citizens!

Whether we should act as members of the armed forces or as civilians, needs to be addressed. In this case it is important to make sure that the right means are used to reach the objective. Using Reservists to build bridges between nations can be a good idea. With reference to the experiences that Danish Reservists have from international missions, we – as a third party – are acting as intermediaries that do not take side. When we look at the Reservist's qualifications in this matter, we bring our civilian competences with us into a conflict. This in turn helps us to address a given situation in a different way, than just from a tactical point of view. An advantage that is very important in these situations, where people have great difficulties in letting go from their hate, belief and so forth.

### **How can Reservists assists in bringing them closer?**

Will we ever be able to bring nations so close to each other, so that there is no longer any distance to register, and should we? We have come a long way in the last 50 years, but we must recognize that we also have a long way to go to make the world a safer place. Establishing international organizations such as the EU, NATO, OECD, Red Cross, UN, and many others, help bring nations closer. As we have mentioned, tolerance, education, and communication are some of the most important areas that we must deal with in order to build bridges. Here, we as Reservists might, as well as any other citizen, use our expertise, knowledge, and network to reach this objective. This can be done in formal as well as in informal environment.

## **6. International organizations and national self – determination sometimes could be in conflict.**

When the Danish delegation is to go into details about NATO's future, it is important to stress the nature of the formal relations between NATO and its members, and subsequently what conditions speak against NATO's existence. We have focused on two aspects that sceptics often call attention to when they criticise NATO: Firstly, the Alliance's lack of flexibility, and secondly, the European contribution proportional to that of the USA. This paper will end with some concluding remarks over these reflections.

### ***NATO as an international organization***

NATO is an intergovernmental organization and does not have any supranational power. It is based on a special mixture of retention of the members' absolute sovereignty – and an active integration based on planning operation. This means that when a member state does not agree on the use of military force as an instrument, in a certain matter, they simply choose not to contribute, even if other member states participate in the operation. This situation has occurred a number of times in the history e.g. in the 1980's, when a majority in the Danish Parliament decided not to agree on the intensification of nuclear weapons, which was intended to intimidate the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Denmark did not intent to sabotage the decision and it became a reality. This is a situation of tradeoffs. It is positive that member states can decide whether to join an operation, but negative for the Alliance as a whole, because the member states staff will be excluded from the operation.

### **Can NATO survive?**

NATO has been going through radical changes since the end of the Cold War. The Alliance has changed to the new security policy challenges, taken up new member states, and made strong partnerships with old enemies. All this in spite of the fact that history tells us when the threat disappears, so does the glue that binds nations in alliances. After this historical reflection we try to put NATO's future into perspective.

### ***New missions demands a dynamic NATO***

As a consequence of the attack on September 11th 2001, NATO made history - it activated the art. 5. The attack was seen as an attack on the Alliance, which gave the members right to defend itself. This was the argument for the American intervention in Afghanistan, but it was without NATO's direct involvement – only with support from individual Alliance partners. The explanation on NATO's

modest contribution could be due to the fact that USA wanted to avoid the Alliance's heavy decision-making process, which could slow the intervening forces' flexibility and speed.

NATO must organize its structure in order to meet these types of operations. Steps have already been made to ensure that. In 2002 USA suggested that NATO establish a rapid response force with the purpose to fight against security threats outside NATO's boundary. The proposal was adopted in November 2002 (the NATO Response Force). The American Secretary of Defence has pointed out that such a response force is a necessity if NATO is to have any relevance in the 21st century.

The Danish delegation appreciates the step towards a more flexible NATO, because it enhances the legitimacy of NATO. The Danish delegation agrees with The Minister of Defence in Denmark on his evaluation of the NATO Response Force. He says, "The NATO Response Force will contribute to a closer relation between the Europeans and USA, and enable NATO to solve the future security matters".

NATO is the most important alliance today, but to stay in that position, NATO depends on support. Its foundation is divided into two – an American and a European pillar, where the most dominating is the American. The American investment far outreaches the European members', and their technological capacity is the most advanced. It is said that solidarity is the core of NATO, but no one must forget the members mutual defence commitment. If the European members do not re-evaluate their contributions to NATO, the consequences can be that USA is convinced that they have to do everything themselves. This consequence will sink NATO into oblivion!

We believe that the European members will have to restructure their contributions to NATO, to ensure the overall technological level. We find that it would be more fruitful if the European members stop structuring their national defence to cover all-round missions. Instead, we suggest that each member is assigned to undertake a small part of the NATO defence structure.

NATO has made improvements that have raised its justification as a part of tomorrow's world order. We believe that NATO will be a future player in the world, but it must adapt to the ever-changing surroundings. NATO has always been more than an alliance between states, because they could stand together against a common enemy or as put by Lord Robertson "...The vision behind the North Atlantic Treaty is common values, not just the common threat"

## **7. Conclusions**

In answering the five questions the Danish delegation has examined a lot of important issues. It is our opinion that to guarantee stability in the world we must secure that the distances between nations and people are very diminutive. As we have mentioned it is important to reach diverse populations across social borders, which must be done with the use of specific methods. This in turn leads to the necessary influence of political and civilian leaders that is an essential task to ensure the acknowledgement and the need for the armed forces. At the same time it is just as important to make sure that nations and people recognizes that the new world order unfortunately calls for military actions in extreme cases. Under these circumstances it is of vital importance that NATO are cable to adapt to its ever changing surroundings if it is to survive. In this way NATO as well as other international organizations can help bring nations and people closer together and establish common values. A significant way to achieve this objective is through communication, so that we better understand our differences in culture, religion and so forth.