



Security and Defence

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Executive Summary

Since the end of the Cold War, the danger of a major global war has receded, but it has been replaced by a whole series of local armed conflicts as well as other threats to security like the illegal arms trade, cyber-warfare, terrorism, organised international crime, mass uncontrolled migration, the illicit drug trade, trafficking in persons, and other threats that are not susceptible to military solutions.

The **Scottish Democratic Alliance** is therefore under no illusion that Scotland must have the civilian and military forces equipped to deal with these threats within a global system of cooperation, because there can be no security for any country, however large and powerful, in the midst of an insecure world. The prime example is the "9/11" terrorist attacks on the US World Trade Center and Pentagon in September 2001, which were planned and organised from a number of locations in four continents.

The whole system of countering threats to national and international security is necessarily changing, because the nature of the threats themselves has changed. National and international security and defence are inter-related and can only be countered by an interactive combination of law enforcement agencies, intelligence services and military forces.

The actual size and composition of the civilian, intelligence and military land, sea and air forces required can be ascertained only after a comprehensive assessment of current threats and future security requirements.

Their tasks will also include foreign military assignments under United Nations auspices, fisheries protection, air-sea rescue, operations against drug and weapon smugglers, and much else, many of which will involve close civilian/military cooperation.

In a country of Scotland's size there will have to be a large emphasis on volunteer civilian and militia forces for backup purposes in emergencies.

Scotland must seek membership of international organisations that provide cast-iron guarantees of its national security and territorial integrity. The **SDA** proposes that sovereign Scotland engages in bi-lateral peace treaties with all her North Atlantic neighbours, and is fully committed to cooperation with **NATO**.

NATO, in cooperation with the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**, remains the spearhead for operations against international terrorism. NATO's **Partnership for Peace** and its **Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council** also encompass a whole range of non-member and neutral countries, including Russia.

Another essential source of security is the 56-member **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**, which the Russians still regard as Europe's premier security system. The OSCE has more than 20 peace missions running, and has complemented NATO operations on many occasions in the Balkans and elsewhere. Here, too, Scottish membership is essential.

On the other hand, the **SDA** sees no value in the current development of a military capability for the **European Union**, which unnecessarily duplicates **NATO** functions and undermines the **OSCE**. We regard it as motivated primarily by integrationist euro-ideology rather than military necessity.

The **SDA** advocates that the decision on whether to join or not join NATO should be made by the people of Scotland after we regain sovereignty. The people should have the choice to decide by means of a referendum, after being given the opportunity to debate the options such as joining NATO or entering into bi-lateral peace treaties with our North Atlantic neighbours.

The **SDA** is totally opposed to **weapons of mass destruction** (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear). It therefore proposes that a constitutional ban be imposed in Scotland on all CBRN weapons as well as others like anti-personnel land mines, that have murdered and maimed innumerable civilians, and that Scotland should sign the relevant international treaties outlawing them.

The **Trident** submarine-carried ballistic missile system is already approaching its phasing-out date, and when it is removed the Faslane base can be converted to non-nuclear Scottish requirements. The NATO nuclear weapons are no longer targeted on any country, and NATO officially regards the possibility of their use as "extremely remote". There is therefore no longer any operational reason why the Trident submarines should put to sea at all, since they no longer serve any military function within the alliance. Meantime, their only use to the UK is as politico-diplomatic bargaining counters, and this may require a degree of tolerance from Scotland regarding the Faslane facility for a limited period until the situation resolves itself.

Scotland must continue with the existing close cooperation on security issues with **Interpol**, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**, and other international non- military security agencies. There must be particularly close coordination with England, Wales and Ireland over the entire spectrum of security issues like illegal immigration, drug-running, money laundering, smuggling of persons, cyber-warfare and so on.

The **SDA** welcomes the plan to establish an oversight **agency** to coordinate the activities of the various Scottish law enforcement organisations. This is an essential step towards ensuring the effectiveness of the Scottish security forces at home as well as enhancing their vital links with foreign national agencies and the relevant international organisations. Such innovative approaches are vital in order to cope with organised international crime.

The **armed forces** necessary to implement Scottish security policy, and to be made available to the United Nations for peacekeeping operations, should be similar to those of the Scandinavian countries, which are comparable as regards population size, geographical terrain and territorial waters. In the light of current experience the **SDA** proposes a **Scottish Defence Force** with a Joint Command and Procurement Structure to co-ordinate the following functional force structures as a suggested basis for further evaluation: A volunteer SDF with about 8,000 ground personnel, plus 2,000 naval persons, a commando of 500 marines and special forces, and 2,000 air defence persons. These to be supported by about 6,000 part-time volunteer militia plus a force of reserves for all services.

Land force: Around 8,000 professional personnel operating in all-arms combat groups including logistics and technical units, backed up by a volunteer militia force with local companies. One combat group, consisting mainly of professionals, should be in a state of short-term readiness and constantly available for overseas deployment.

Naval force: A force with a personnel strength of around 2,000 professionals will be required with a core force of ten patrol ships plus support ships. Scottish shipyards should benefit from orders for new multi-role helicopter capable offshore patrol vessels designed for coastguard and fisheries protection functions, which will additionally meet search and rescue, emergency towing, fire-fighting duties plus humanitarian obligations.

A new class of a further ten dual-role inter-island ferries capable of supplementing the main naval service in times of crisis is also envisaged. (This means a potential for 20 indigenous shipbuilding orders over the next 10-15 years, needed as any inherited ships would come with miles on the clock).

Air force: A force of about 2,000 personnel organised in four wings, each wing operating as part of the appropriate land or naval service to ensure a joined up and coherent approach to Scotland's defence.

- a) One wing consisting of lightweight multi-role aircraft (such as SAAB Gripen NGs) for airspace surveillance and policing.
- b) One maritime patrol wing with a mix of maritime turboprop patrol aircraft (such as Casa C295s), unmanned airborne vehicles and fisheries surveillance light aircraft.
- c) One transport and auxiliary wing with about eight transport aircraft (such as Lockheed martin C130Js), also available for civilian functions.
- d) One helicopter wing with large-capacity machines (such as the Sikorsky Black Hawk) for troop transport as well as search and rescue and disaster relief.

The question of two or three AWACS early-warning aircraft should also be considered, in view of Scotland's vast sea areas.

It is essential that these services should be fully inter-operational, and be capable of forming a self-contained task force at battalion group strength without external assistance. There must be regular secondments from all services for Special Forces training, since these units have an enhanced importance over the entire spectrum of anti-terrorist and similar operations.

The **SDA** considers it practicable and desirable to retain the existing local connections for both regular and militia forces as an aid to esprit de corps, and not least to uphold one of the most traditional features of Scottish national life.

Maritime Agencies: At present a number of different government agencies provide a range of specialist functions within Scotland's maritime zone. The **SDA** advocates that all government maritime agencies outwith the armed forces combine their functions and responsibilities under one umbrella organisation to be known as the **Coastguard Service**. The naval service and Coastguard service will be further integrated for practical purposes such as relevant personnel training and equipment procurement. This will reduce overheads and provide a more effective, interlinked use of the available assets.

The **Coastguard Service** proposed is to be based on a **centralised data and information exchange and liaison centre** which will overview the operation of a distributed **network of local** Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCCs), each **MRCC** providing local coordination of the maritime assets for fishery protection, counter pollution, counter drug trafficking, salvage, inshore rescue assets, customs and ship inspection. For maritime incidents each MRCC will co-ordinate the necessary liaison and support from the Police, Fire and Rescue services, Ambulance service, Health Service, RNLI, Air surveillance and Rescue Assets, Civil Defence units, Military assets and relevant private agencies and the Media, etc.

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