



# Total defence - the Norwegian example

# Total defence in Norway

- Developed from 1950s, based on experience of WWII:
  - war will be 'total' - especially with nuclear weapons
  - all resources must be mustered for defence
- Core elements - extensive planning for:
  - military: mobilisation, requisitioning of civilian resources
  - civilian: economic/supply security; health and police readiness; civil defence and psychological defence





# Total defence in Norway

- Based on a set of laws, including notably

Act no. 7 of 15 December 1950 relating to special measures in time of war, threat of war and similar circumstances

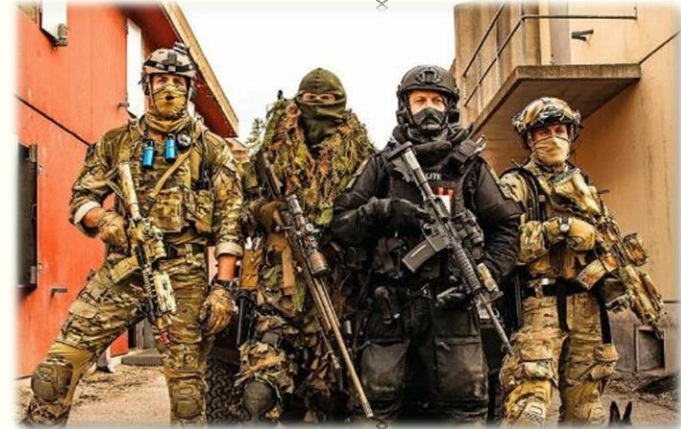
## Chapter V. Compulsory surrender to the public authorities

§ 15. When the realm is at war or war is threatening or the independence or security of the realm is in danger, the King may, to the extent necessary for the protection of important public interests, demand the surrender to the government or municipality of rights of ownership or other rights of disposal over movable property of any kind, including electric power, and the right of use or other special rights of disposal over real estate.



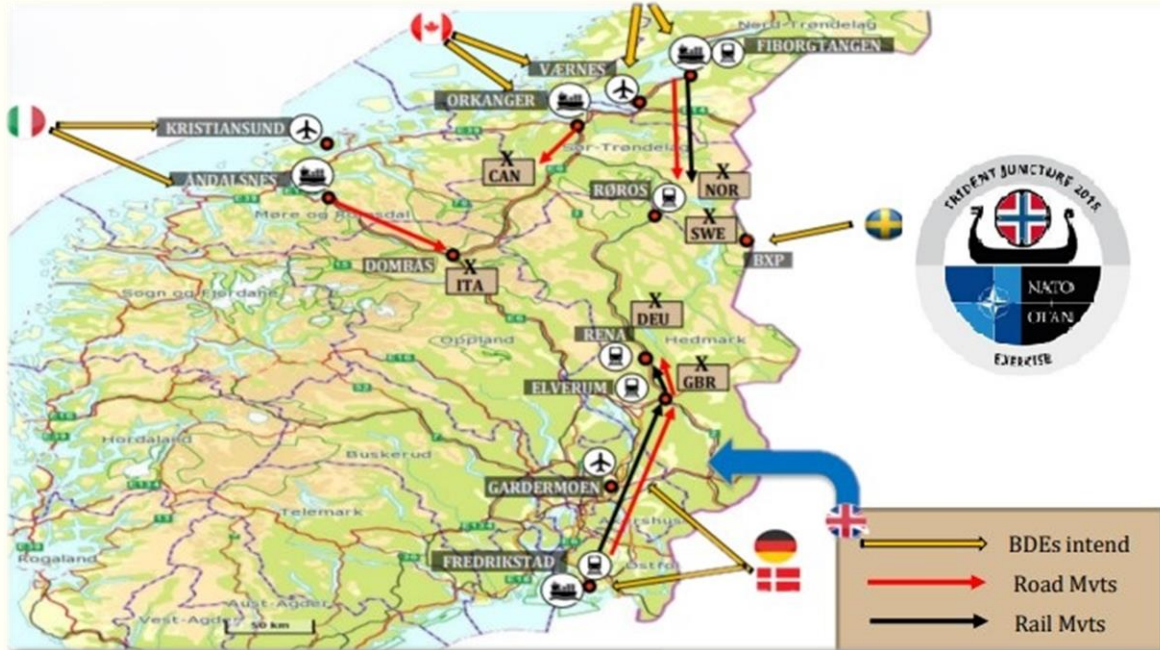
# Total defence in Norway

- Post-Cold War the emphasis gradually shifted from civilian support to defence, to military support to police and other civilian authorities
- Terrorism, natural disasters, pandemic
- Like in most countries, privatisation of telecom, post, railways etc. led to emphasis on profitability and 'just in time'
- Traditional 'total defence' withered



# Total defence in Norway

- Post-2014 emphasis has turned back to traditional role
- Showcased in Trident Juncture 2018 exercise



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## Trident Juncture: Norway uses commercial shipping to test "Total Defence Concept"

AUTHORITIES

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The Norwegian defense ministry is using commercial vessels to test a new concept of operations as part of the 31-nation NATO drill Trident Juncture which is taking place in Norway.



Photo: Simon Mekster Shipping



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# Total defence in Norway

- Two main bodies in planning and (partly) execution:

Military



Norwegian Joint  
Operational  
Headquarters

Civilian



Directorate for Civil  
Protection



# Total defence in Norway

- All relevant governmental agencies and government-owned service providers have liaisons at the Joint Operational Command



# Total defence in Norway

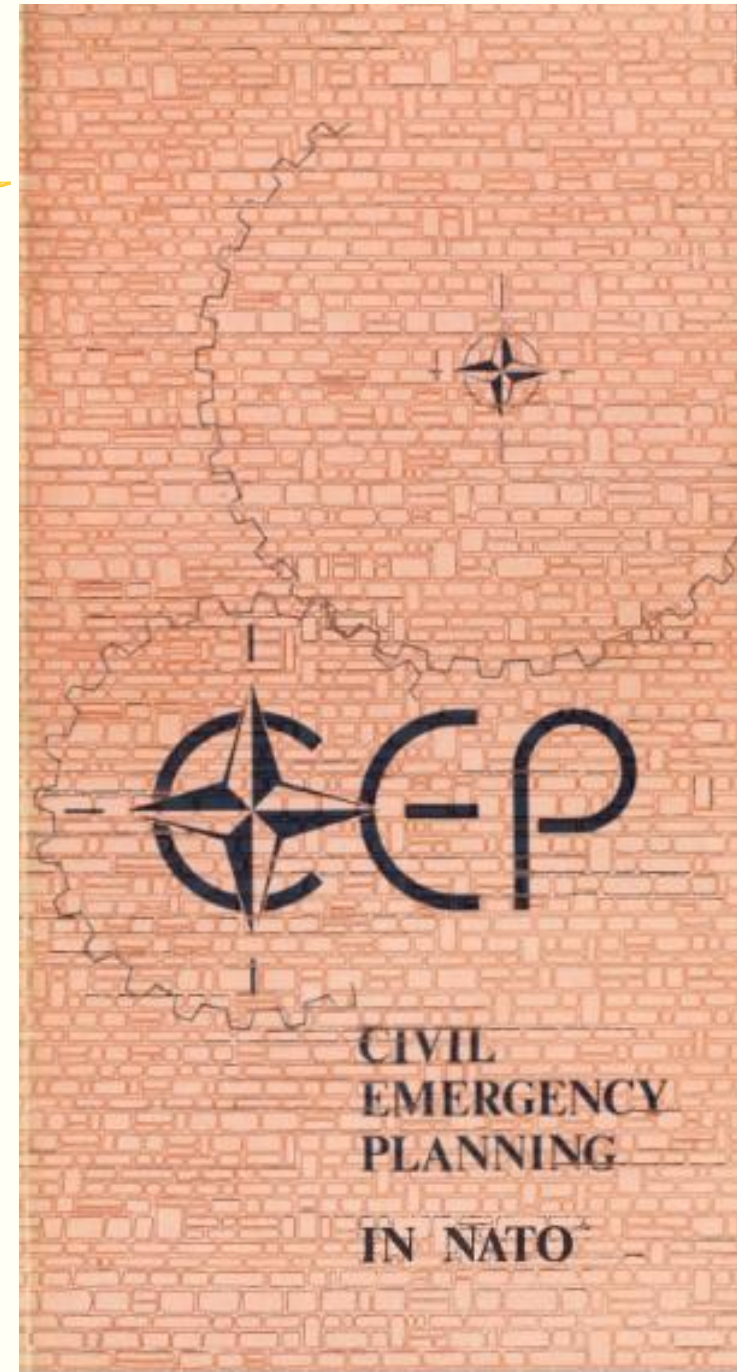
- Despite whole-of-government approach, Norway practises a strict ‘sectoral principle’
  - individual ministries are responsible for their sector
  - Ministry of Justice and Public Security lead in cross-sectoral, civilian crises
  - criticism: lack of coordinating role for Office of Prime Minister





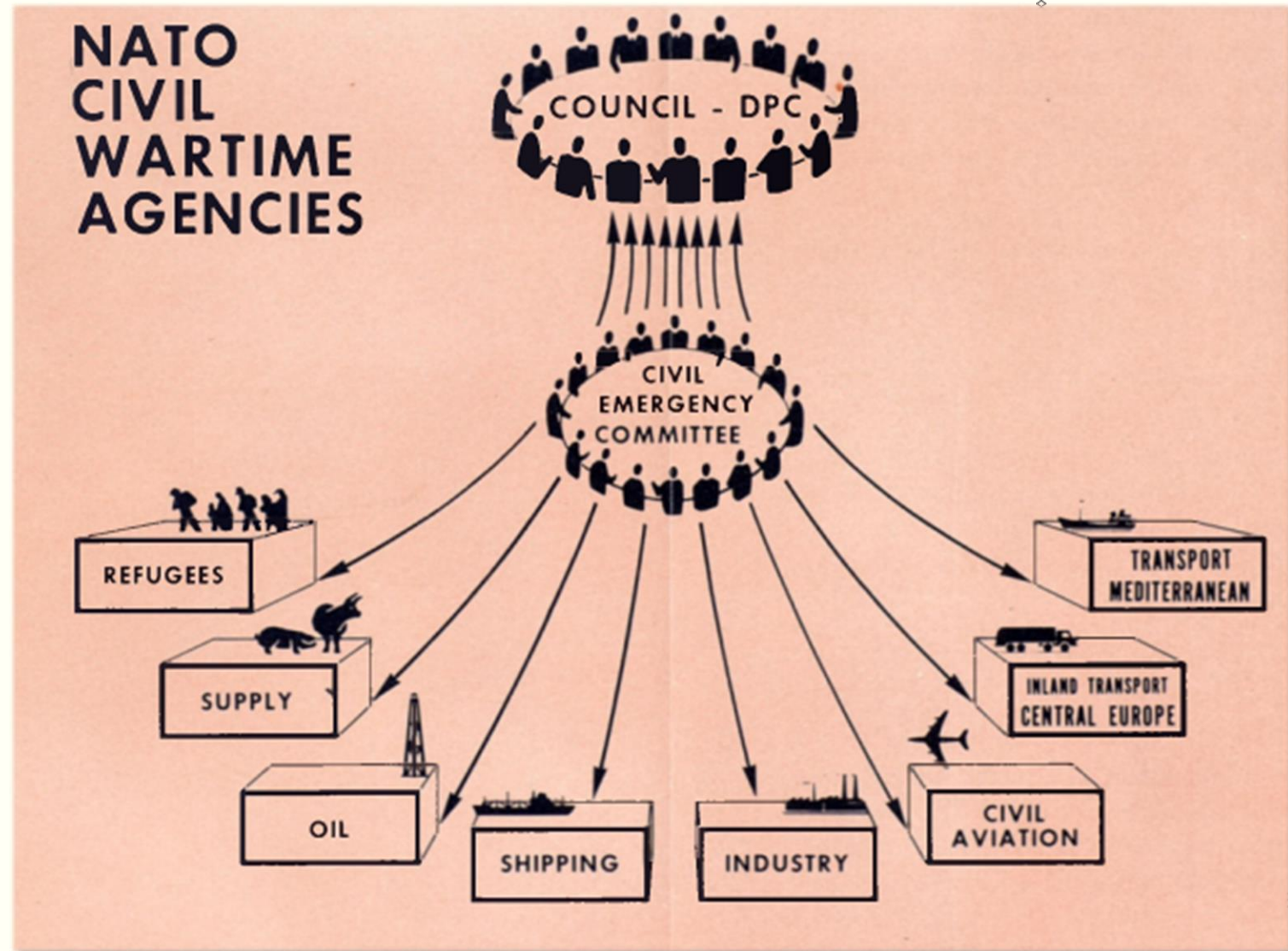
# ‘Total defence’ in NATO

- Article 3  
In order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, [...] will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.
- Both military and civilian



# ‘Total defence’ in NATO

- Boards in peace - NATO Civil Wartime Agencies in war
- Civilian support for military war effort
- From 1953 also support after natural disasters



# ‘Total defence’ in NATO

- 2016: Seven baseline requirements
- 2022: Resilience Committee

