

## Scottish Democratic Alliance

# Security and Defence

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The concept of security has taken on a whole new range of meanings since the collapse of Communism and 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 The danger of a major global war has receded, but it has been replaced by a whole series of local armed conflicts as well as other threats to security like the illegal arms trade, undemocratic governmental systems, terrorism,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 **SDA** is therefore under no illusion here. 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.**

The actual size and composition of the civilian 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 militia forces for backup purposes in emergencies. Meantime, the **SDA** is totally opposed to any disturbance of Scotland's traditional regimental system, the value of which has been proved over centuries.

Scotland must seek membership of international organisations that provide cast-iron guarantees of its national security and territorial integrity. In this context there is no substitute for the **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**, with 50 member and partner states. The **SDA** is fully committed to membership of **NATO**, which for half a century has served the free world well, and in its new role will help secure world peace in the future. **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. Dating from the famous 1975 Helsinki Conference, the OSCE is in fact the world's largest security institution, covering an area from Vancouver to Vladivostok with a range of security-related functions that go well beyond the purely military. It played by far the major role in ending the Cold War and disarming Europe. 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 **Western European Union** no longer operates as an organisation, since almost all of its functions have been assumed by NATO and in some cases by the European Union. The **WEU Treaty** on mutual assistance still exists, however, since it covers some aspects of security not dealt with elsewhere. An independent Scotland would probably automatically become a party to it under international law regulating the succession of states.

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. There must be close cooperation in the international efforts to prevent the spread of these weapons as well as their ballistic carrier systems.

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. They will probably be mothballed and in time eventually scrapped, rather than updated, especially in the light of the financial situation. 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 and step up 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 and so on. There must be no unilateral action (e.g. entry to the Schengen system of open frontiers) except in agreement with the other partners.

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 peacemaking and 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: Probably in the order of 15,000 volunteer regulars, with about 9,000 ground personnel, based around our traditional battalions plus 3,000 naval persons, a battalion of 500 marines and special forces, and 2,500 air defence persons. These to be supported by about 5,000 part-time volunteer militia plus a force of reserves for all services.

**Land force:** Around 9,000 professional personnel in regimental battalion groups including logistics and technical units, backed up by a volunteer militia force with local companies. One battalion 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 3,000 professionals will be required. In addition to conducting littoral operations in home waters, the navy must have the capability to participate in **NATO's Standing Naval Force** as well as the **NATO Response Force**. The number and types of operational and flexible support vessels must be assessed in the light of these requirements, which include amphibious operational capability. All vessels must be helicopter capable. Scottish shipyards should benefit by orders for two multi-role support ships to meet peacekeeping and humanitarian obligations and also a new class of about eight offshore patrol vessels designed for coastguard and fisheries protection functions as well as a full naval role.

**Air force:** A force of about 2500 personnel organised in four wings: One consisting of two squadrons of multi-role aircraft capable of maintaining at least a dozen operational machines in the air at any time for airspace surveillance and policing; a maritime patrol/anti-submarine warfare wing with maritime patrol aircraft and fisheries surveillance light aircraft; a transport and auxiliary wing with about eight C130J or similar aircraft, also available for civilian functions; and a 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 AEWAC early-warning aircraft should be considered, in view of Scotland's vast sea areas as well as NATO requirements.

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**. 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.

**A more comprehensive SDA Security and Defence policy is in preparation.**

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