

# ***The Future of Combat Air***

*- reflections from a Swedish perspective*

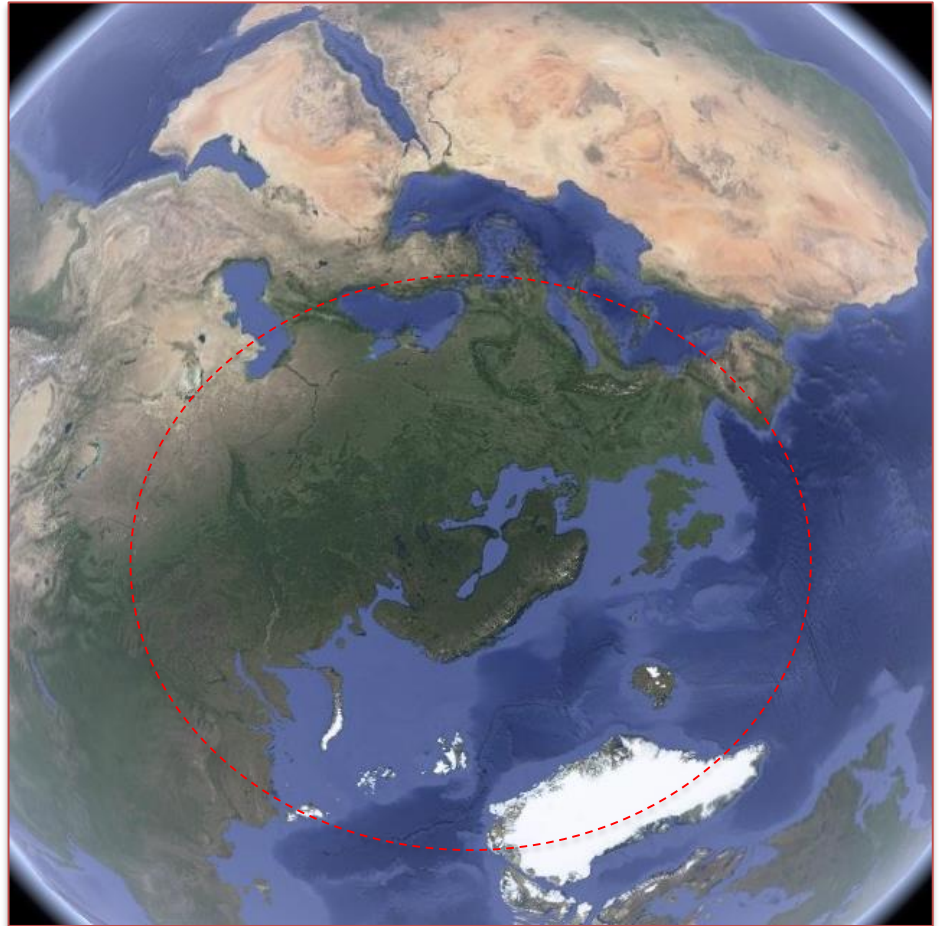
**Swedish Air Force**

**Commander Swedish Air Force, Maj Gen Mats Helgesson**



# A Swedish perspective.

- ≥ UN
- ≥ EU
- ≥ NATO PFP EOP
- ≥ NORDEFCO, JEF
- ≥ Trade, cooperation and innovation based economy Volvo/ SAAB / Ericsson / IKEA/ Spotify / Skype ...
- ≥ Not Neutral, but non military aligned
- ≥ During the cold war – neutrality – production of almost all our military equipment in Sweden. Combat Aircraft, Submarines, C2, Missiles, Tanks , EW etc.







Examples of  
Air Force  
threats in our  
neighborhood

2020

-

2035



AA-12b



S-300/400



SU-57



SS-26



A-50/100



SU-35



SS-C-5



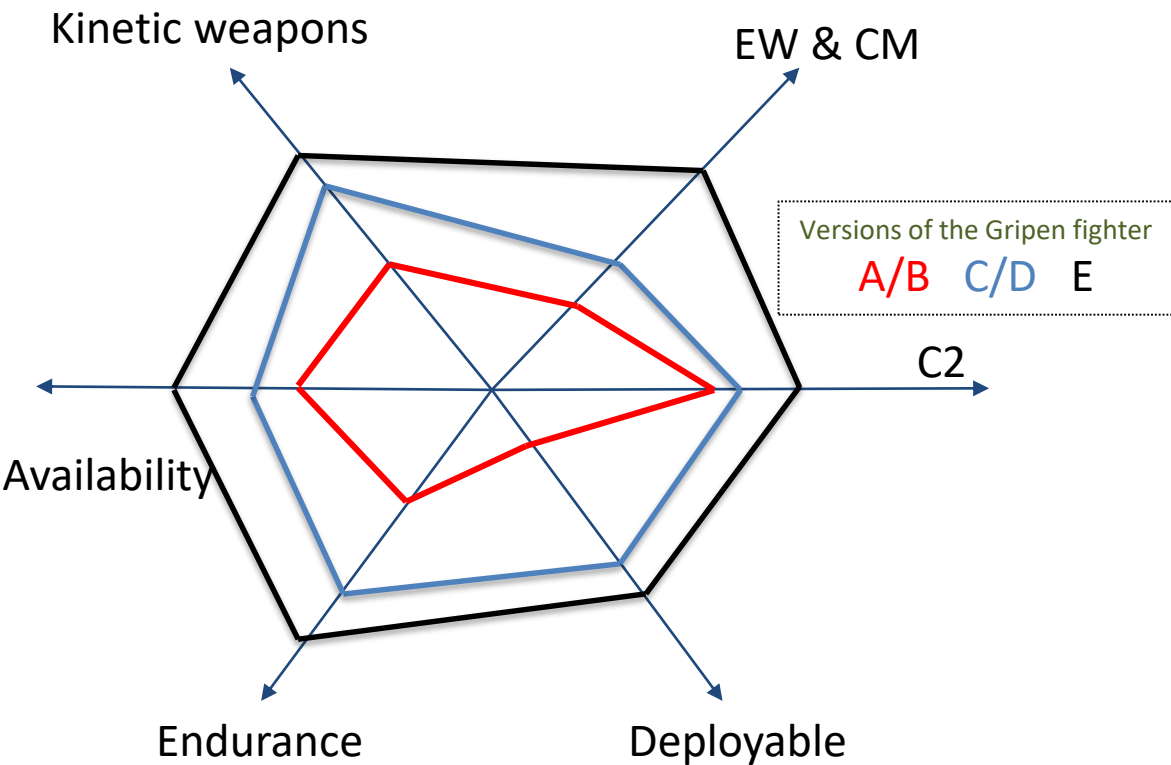
SOF



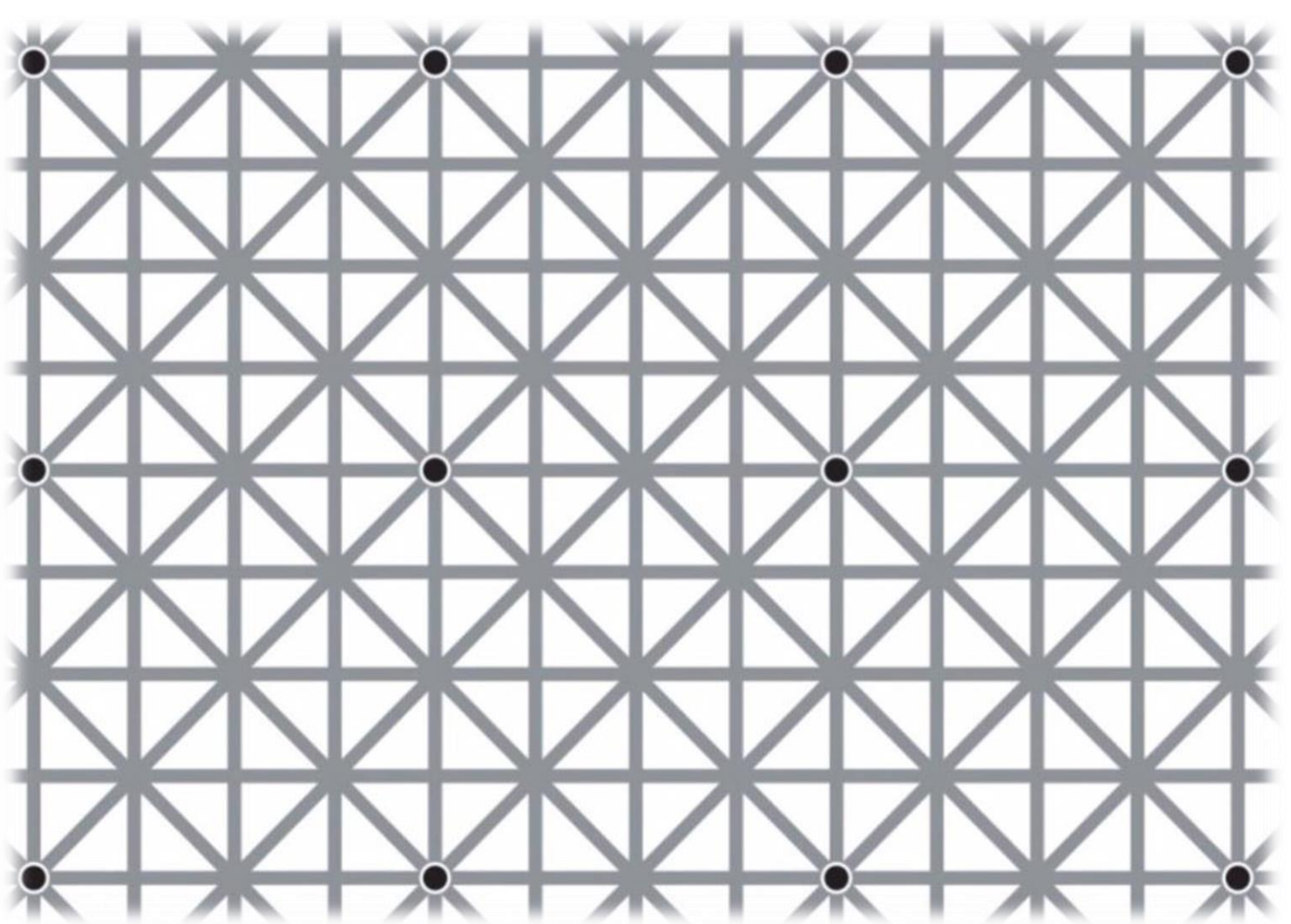
SU-34

Naval assets / Cyber / Space / PSYOPS / ...

# Threat driven development



Be aware of  
the blind spot



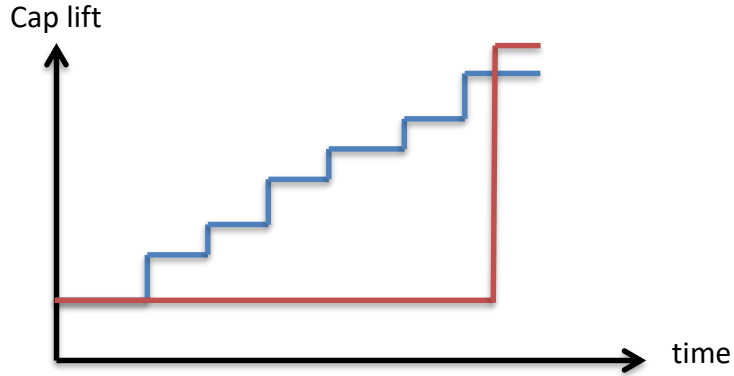
# Swedish Air Force view on Electronic Warfare

- ≥ A major weapon both offensively and defensively
- ≥ Requires constant attention and upgrading
- ≥ Needs to be trained, a lot (sims+irl)
- ≥ Requires specialists and focused intel
- ≥ Can never replace a/c performance, but it is a strong multiplier
- ≥ A basic design criteria when building Combat Aircraft
- ≥ A part of the DNA of Combat Air tactics





# Gradual development vs mid life updates



- Faster adaption of new tech
- Constant attention on development
- Foreseeable economy = affordable
- Industrial competence over time
- Operators will have increased “workload”
- Operating with many configurations



# *The future of combat air*

- Much more than only a high performing airframe.
- You need to have a holistic and joint view on Air Combat Power.
- Cooperation is essential.
- Affordability.
- And if you look far enough into the future you are not bound only to follow current development trends, you could actually lead and shape your own future.



UK – SWE MoU signing 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

